

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

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4 AN ORDINANCE relating to a City-sanctioned homeless encampment on City-owned property;
5 authorizing the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to execute a contract to
6 conduct an environmental assessment of the “Glassyard” property located south of
7 Highland Park Way Southwest between 2nd Avenue Southwest and South Myrtle Street;
8 making an appropriation from the General Subfund; amending the 2013 Adopted Budget
of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services; and ratifying and confirming
certain prior acts in connection thereto.

9 WHEREAS, in January 2013, the One-Night Count of people who are homeless identified 1,989
10 people who remained outside in Seattle; and

11 WHEREAS, the One-Night Count numbers indicate that our community’s shelter system does
12 not have the capacity to shelter all those in need; and

13 WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are committed to helping Seattle individuals and families
14 find permanent and stable housing; and

15 WHEREAS, in August 2010, the Mayor formed a Review Panel comprised of representatives
16 from human service agencies, government, and faith-based groups, with knowledge about
homelessness and housing; and

17 WHEREAS, on October 18, 2010, the Review Panel submitted policy recommendations in a
18 report on Encampments and Seattle’s Unsheltered Homeless Population, which
19 recommended the City of Seattle sanction and offer available property for a encampment
20 to help meet the immediate survival and safety needs of individuals in our community
who are unsheltered; and

21 WHEREAS, the Review Panel also strongly urged the City of Seattle to continue to aggressively
22 develop permanent, affordable housing options for individuals and families transitioning
out of homelessness; and

23 WHEREAS, the Council and Mayor support the Review Panel’s recommendation to continue to
24 aggressively develop permanent, affordable housing options for individuals and families
25 transitioning out of homelessness, and wish to explore the possibility of providing a City-
sanctioned temporary encampment to aid in those transitions; and

1 WHEREAS, since 2010, a group of homeless individuals who refer to themselves as
2 “Nickelsville” have set up temporary encampments at numerous properties, including the
City-owned property that housed the former Fire Station 39 in Lake City; and

3 WHEREAS, the “Nickelsville” group established its most recent temporary encampment at the
4 City-owned property commonly known as the Glassyard, which is located in West
Seattle; and

5 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the conditions under which the existing encampment
6 operates are not sustainable as the “Glassyard” site does not have basic amenities for
7 shelter or hygiene purposes; and

8 WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to explore the possibility of constructing a temporary
9 structure for providing transitional services, food preparation, and hygiene facilities to be
10 run by an organization that would manage the City-sanctioned encampment, providing up
to 100 homeless people with a place to stay and with connections to critical human
services while they transition to more permanent housing; and

11 WHEREAS, an environmental assessment must be conducted in order to determine whether the
12 Glassyard property is potentially a suitable site for providing temporary shelter and
13 transitional services, NOW, THEREFORE,

14 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

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16 Section 1. The Director of Finance and Administrative Services is authorized to
17 negotiate and execute, for and on behalf of the City of Seattle, a contract with a qualified firm to
18 conduct an environmental assessment of the property commonly referred to as the “Glassyard”
19 site, which is located south of Highland Park Way Southwest between 2nd Avenue Southwest
20 and South Myrtle Street for the purpose of informing decision-makers as to the site’s viability to
21 house a City-sanctioned temporary homeless encampment and transitional services.
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23 Section 2. In order to pay for necessary costs and expenses incurred or to be incurred
24 in 2013 for which insufficient appropriations were made due to causes that could not reasonably
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1 have been foreseen at the time the 2013 Budget was adopted, the appropriations for the 2013
 2 Budget are modified as follows:

| FUND | DEPARTMENT | BUDGET CONTROL LEVEL | AMOUNT |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| General Subfund (00100) | Finance General | Appropriation to General Fund Subfunds and Special Funds (2QA00) | \$150,000 |
| Finance and Administrative Services Fund (50300) | Department of Finance and Administrative Services | Facility Services (A3000) | \$150,000 |
| TOTAL | | | \$300,000 |

11 The purpose of this appropriation is to pay for an environmental assessment as
 12 described in Section 1.

13 Section 3. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance taken after its
 14 passage and prior to its effective date is hereby ratified and confirmed.
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16 Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by
 17 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it
 18 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.
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Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2013, and
signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this
____ day of _____, 2013.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)