



## REGULAR AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.A.

**FOR COUNCIL:** September 9, 2024

**WARD IMPACTED:** City-Wide Impact

**SUBJECT:** Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Declaring an Emergency Related to Homelessness within the Community and Authorizing the City Manager to Issue Executive Orders to Increase Indoor Shelter Capacity, as requested by Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe and City Council.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** The proposed Ordinance be approved.

**STRATEGIC PLAN LINK:**

Goal 4. Strong Neighborhoods

Goal 5. Great Place - Livable, Sustainable City

**STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE:**

Objective 4a. Residents feeling safe in their homes and neighborhoods

Objective 4e. Strong partnership with residents and neighborhood associations

Objective 5a. Well-planned City with necessary services and infrastructure

**BACKGROUND:** Homelessness has become an increasingly urgent issue across the nation, with many communities struggling to meet the needs of individuals and families without stable housing. Economic challenges, rising housing costs, and other factors have contributed to a growing number of people experiencing homelessness. As winter approaches, the need for additional shelter and services becomes even more critical, particularly in communities like ours where cold weather poses a serious threat to those living outdoors.

Locally, the latest count by our local non-profit street outreach teams has indicated around 100 people are living on the streets or within tents. In response to this growing issue, the approval of this Ordinance will allow the Salvation Army to expand its capacity and services during the winter months. Declaring an emergency will provide the necessary legal framework for the shelter to accommodate more individuals, offering them a safe place to stay, as well as access to essential services. This proactive step will help ensure that vulnerable members of our community are protected during the harshest months of the year.

Specifically, the Ordinance will allow the City Manager to issue executive orders to increase indoor shelter capacity, including setting aside specific requirements or sections of the building code, electrical code, fire code, property maintenance code, and related ordinances for a limited amount of time to allow service providers to increase capacity for providing indoor shelter in accordance with the best interests of the City. In lieu of requiring compliance with some of the technical code requirements, other safety protocols will be implemented to ensure everyone's safety.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED:** Home Sweet Home Ministries, Salvation Army, United Way, McLean County Emergency Management Agency,

Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Eastview Church, McLean County, Town of Normal, McLean County Center for Human Services, Mid Central Community Action, Project Oz, Chestnut, and other community partners.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** N/A

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING IMPACT:** N/A

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT:** This request meets the following goals and objectives of the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan 2035: N/A

Respectfully submitted for consideration.

Prepared by: Leslie Yocum, City Clerk

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[ADM 3B Ordinance](#)