

City of Missoula
EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION
Resolution Number 8684

WHEREAS, people experiencing houselessness in our community, state, and region have increased dramatically since the pandemic, with numbers appearing even higher this spring and summer; and

WHEREAS, the federal government supplied one-time resources through programs such as the American Rescue Plan Act to assist local governments with issues such as houselessness during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, a variety of factors including rapid acceleration in housing costs and inflation contributes to the increasing number of people facing houselessness in our community, and without additional federal or state support these numbers are likely to increase; and

WHEREAS, the number of people needing shelter and housing assistance continues to far exceed the community sheltering and supportive housing capacity, which has grown into an acute problem this year; and

WHEREAS, this lack of capacity is forcing people to shelter outdoors in places not suitable to maintain a healthy human habitation, which can lead to: high levels of stress that may exacerbate substance abuse issues, cleanliness challenges that result in infections and disease, and exposure of individuals to the elements; and

WHEREAS, the increased concentration of people sheltering outdoors creates an imminent threat of harm to the individuals sheltering outdoors, especially during unusually hot or cold periods; and

WHEREAS, people forced to shelter outdoors are also contributing to public safety, environmental, and health issues that impacts all Missoula residents and the situation demands emergency action to prevent or mitigate suffering, injury, loss or other damage.

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Jordan Hess, Mayor of the City of Missoula, hereby declare that a state of Emergency exists as of June 9, 2023, in the areas of emergency sheltering, and I direct City of Missoula staff to assist the nonprofit provider community during the pendency of this emergency with financial resources, facilities, and technical assistance necessary to avert or minimize the immediate peril to life and property, and to mitigate further suffering, injury, loss or other damage associated with this Emergency.

Dated this 9th day of June, 2023.

Attest:

Mayor Jordan Hess

Martha Rehbein, City Clerk