PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS TEMPORARY TENT ENCAMPMENT
7:00 PM MONDAY, MAY 3, 2004
CEDAR PARK CHURCH GYM – 16300-112TH AVENUE NE, BOTHELL

SHARE/WHEEL'S TENT CITY4 TO BEGIN AT
15530 JUANITA WOODINVILLE WAY NE 98011
WILL STAY FROM MAY 6 TO AUGUST 6, 2004

Monday, May 3, 2004 there will be a public meeting at the Cedar Park Church Gym at 16300--112th Avenue NE to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about SHARE/WHEEL's Tent City4 – a temporary tent encampment starting May 6th, 2004. Tent City4 will be located at 15530 Juanita Woodinville Way NE. It will be on the upper hillside, approximately 150 yards south of the Brickyard Road Park & Ride and 100 yards to the west of I-405.

The purpose of the meeting is to share information. Please come – it's accessible, and there's parking.

SHARE/WHEEL Tent City4 spokespeople will provide details about the encampment. King County Government has been invited to attend and answer questions. Former hosts of SHARE/WHEEL Tent Cities will be present as well. Comments from the community are encouraged, as a way of assisting SHARE/WHEEL in reducing any possible impacts of the encampment on the neighborhood.

Temporary encampments for homeless individuals are allowed on King County Property under the terms of a 2004 agreement between King County and SHARE/WHEEL. The agreement sets a number of conditions for temporary encampments, including setbacks from property lines or screening, the maximum number of residents in an encampment, and duration of an encampment in any one location. No public health or safety rules have been waived by this agreement.

There is also a requirement that notices be provided to properties within 800 feet or two blocks of the encampment location, whichever is greater, and that a public meeting be held in the neighborhood for information purposes at least 3 days prior to the establishment of the encampment.

WHAT IS A TENT CITY?

We are a community of up to 100 homeless men and women, joining together as Tent City4 to solve our shared problem of no place to stay. Everyone must be sober and non-violent at Tent City4 and the surrounding neighborhood. It is a tent camp, not a car camp. Participants may not park cars in the surrounding neighborhood or the Park & Ride. Panhandling and violence are strictly prohibited.

You are welcome to review our stringent Code of Conduct. Those not respecting it are removed from the community. Garbage pickups occur twice a week; our four sanicans are pumped three times weekly.

Our organization's name is SHARE/WHEEL. We have been around 14 years, and are now the largest and cheapest provider of shelter in King County. We are made up solely of homeless and formerly homeless men and women.

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THE NEED FOR A TENT CITY

More than 3,000 people sleep outside throughout King County after EVERY indoor shelter bed is full. You can imagine how dangerous and scary it is to sleep outside alone. Many of us have been assaulted, robbed, and abused. It is hard to keep healthy or hold a job.

Last year at least 38 people died outside or were murdered who were homeless in King County. Last Wednesday Women in Black stood Vigil for the 9th homeless person we are aware of who has died already this year, outside or murdered.

Most of us would prefer staying inside, but it takes a very long time for shelter or low-cost housing to get started. We want to still be alive when there is enough shelter and housing for us. That is why we are banding together in Tent City4.

The privacy, storage, 24-hour access, ability to allow couples to stick together, and self-management are other factors which make Tent City4 a sensible place to get one's life together and work back into the mainstream.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

We are an organization and community with little money. Almost all that we have is our word. Given these circumstances there are few things more important to us than keeping our promises – not only to our friends, but to everyone. When we say Tent City4 will move within 90 days, you can bank on it. There will be no extensions requested or accepted for this stay near the Brickyard Road Park & Ride.

For the 90 days we are here:

- You will see the property we are using, and the neighborhood we are in, being treated respectfully, with regular neighborhood litter pickups.
- You will not see us panhandling, purchasing liquor, loitering, or being boisterous in the neighborhood.
- Drug dealing, using, and other illegal behavior that is difficult to control in empty fields at night will be eliminated from Tent City4. We will discourage – by our presence, patrols, and by calling 911 – any illegal activity we see anywhere in the neighborhood.
- When we leave by August 6th, the hillside we have used, the Park & Ride, and the neighborhood will be in as good a condition as we found them.

Our greatest strength is a reputation for being responsible in our operations. The SHARE/WHEEL community of 15 shelters, storage lockers, Tent City3, and other efforts will not tolerate losing this strength and reputation over Tent City4. You have word that if there is a pattern of unresolved problems, or if we fail to hold individuals accountable to our code, we will leave the neighborhood.

YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT

Stop by and visit anytime. Just ask for the Security Worker when you come. (There are two people on security at all times.) You are also welcome to visit Tent City3, which is presently located at Lake City Christian Church in Seattle. Its address is 1933 Northeast 125th Street in Seattle.

The SHARE/WHEEL Office number is (206) 448-7889 where we will gladly answer questions. Sherry Hamilton, Communication Manager for the King County Department of Community and Human Services, can be reached at (206) 205-1324. Please call there and notify us of any problems or concerns.