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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF FIFE WORKING WITH LOCAL AGENCIES TO FIND HOUSING HELP

Fife, WA – The City of Fife is working with local agencies to help find a resolution to a developing situation.

Tacoma Housing Now announced Saturday, December 26 that it had taken over 16 rooms at the Travelodge, a privately-owned hotel in the City of Fife. The occupants checked in on December 24 and have not paid for housing at the hotel since that night, which is a significant burden for a small business.

The regional problem of homelessness is incredibly important, but Fife is a small city of 10,000. The City of Fife is trying its best to assist, but has limited resources to do so.

The City of Fife currently is working with area organizations and other leaders to find support and resources for the occupants as well as the hotel owner.

The City of Fife has been coordinating efforts with the City of Tacoma, Pierce County, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and organizations that include the Red Cross, Tacoma Rescue Mission, South Sound 2-1-1 and the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI).

At this time, LIHI has made an offer to the Tacoma Housing Now hotel occupants for alternative shelter at one of the agency's local tiny house locations. Additional questions can be directed to LIHI.

We are hopeful the occupants will voluntarily check out of the Travelodge and take advantage of this housing option provided for the group through our partners. Now it will be the responsibility of individuals illegally staying at the hotel to accept the housing assistance or check out.

With Tacoma Housing Now reporting cases of Covid-19 among the group at the Travelodge, it is imperative that these individuals are housed at more suitable locations. If there are any confirmed Covid-19 cases among the group, they would have the option of staying at the county's Temporary Care Center.

The City of Fife additionally would like to convey its support for the hotel owner for a satisfactory outcome for his hotel and his employees. The occupied Travelodge property is a minority-owned business that has little means to tackle this issue alone.

The City of Fife stands committed to affordable and accessible housing for all, including our homeless residents in Fife. For anybody experiencing homelessness or having difficulty with housing costs, call 2-1-1 for assistance.

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