

# FAQ

## **"Who's going to be liable if something happens?"**

Response: "We can work with the city's legal team on appropriate waivers and insurance coverage. Other cities like Tacoma have successfully addressed liability concerns. I'm happy to bring examples of how they structured it."

## **"How will you handle security/safety concerns?"**

Response: "Like Tacoma's model, we'll have basic security protocols. The space will be away from residential areas, and having people in one designated location actually makes it easier for police and service providers to respond to any issues."

## **"What happens after winter?"**

Response: "This is specifically a December-April emergency response to prevent deaths this winter. It gives us time to work on longer-term solutions while keeping people alive. Tacoma started with a winter mitigation site and used that experience to develop better permanent solutions."

## **"Won't this just attract more homeless people to Akron?"**

Response: "Research shows people experiencing homelessness generally stay in their home communities. Most of the people I work with grew up here in Akron. This space would be for our existing unsheltered residents who are already here."

## **"Why can't they just go to the shelters?"**

Response: "Some people, like Aaron with severe mental illness, or Harley with schizoaffective disorder, have barriers to accessing traditional shelters. The April 2024 federal guidelines specifically acknowledge this and recommend safe sleeping spaces as an interim solution."

## **"How will you handle drug use?"**

Response: "Our policy will be clear: no illegal drug use permitted. However, we'll work with outreach teams and treatment providers to help connect people to services when they're ready."

## **"What if neighbors/businesses complain?"**

Response: "That's why we've identified locations away from residential and business areas. Having a designated space actually reduces impact on neighborhoods compared to having people scattered throughout the city."

## **"Who's going to clean it/maintain it?"**

Response: "We'll handle all maintenance including trash service and porta-potty servicing. No city resources required. We'll have clear protocols for keeping the space clean and orderly."