



CITY OF KIRKLAND

City Manager's Office

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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Tracy Burrows, Senior Management Analyst

Date: 11/4/05

Subject: Resolution Expressing the City of Kirkland's Endorsement of the Goals of the King County Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution expressing Kirkland's endorsement of the goals of "A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness" and stating our intent to work with other agencies and governmental entities in the implementation of this plan.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The Committee to End Homelessness in King County - made up of representatives from nonprofit organizations, business, local government, homeless advocacy groups, and the faith community - has developed the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. This plan seeks to end homelessness through prevention, by creating permanent housing, and by providing supportive services to help those in need prepare for and maintain long-term housing.

The plan lays out a series of specific strategies and actions, with clear goals and measurable outcomes, for local leaders and their organizations to pursue over the next decade. It guides investment of limited local resources to services that serve homeless people most effectively. The plan works to ensure alignment and coordination among all the entities in our community that are engaged in meeting the needs the homeless, and builds on local and national best practices for resolving homelessness. The key strategies are to:

1. Prevent homelessness

Work together to make sure an adequate supply of appropriate housing and supportive services are available to help people stay in their homes. These services include rent and utility assistance, job training, employment and education assistance, health care, mental health counseling, foster care and chemical dependency treatment.

2. Move people rapidly from homelessness to housing

Place homeless people as quickly as possible in permanent housing and then help them to stabilize and function independently by providing them with the supportive services they need to be successful in their homes.

3. Build the public and political will to end homelessness

Expand our community's commitment to ending homelessness by educating the public, tracking our successes and building on them, and establishing steady funding.

As of the fall of 2005, the following groups have been or are being formed to implement the plan:

A **Governing Board** made up of more than 20 influential leaders will provide high-level oversight. They will help to sustain the vision and leadership of the plan. More specifically, they will guide planning, coordinate current funding, and work to create additional resources.

A **Consumer Advisory Council** will be comprised of people who are currently homeless or who have experienced homelessness in the past who will represent the broad interests and needs of homeless people countywide.

An **Interagency Council** will include partners working to end homelessness in King County. The Interagency Council will work to sponsor changes to current programs; coordinate data collection, analysis and reporting; recommend policy direction to the Governing Board; and create ways to better serve people experiencing homelessness.

Five Committees will focus on implementation strategies. Three will integrate housing and services solutions for the target population groups (Single Adults, Families and Youth) and create new approaches and efficiencies in keeping with the Plan. Two other committees will focus on overarching strategies. Communications, Public Awareness and Legislative Advocacy will focus on day to day communications, legislative advocacy and creating long term public will, and Resource Development and Alignment will focus on creating new resources and maximizing the use of existing resources while being sensitive to other community needs. The Resource Committee will also recommend priorities for funds generated under the Homeless Housing Assistance Act ("HB 2163").

Staff support for implementing the plan will be provided by the King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and funded in collaboration with the City of Seattle, United Way of King County and others.

A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Committee to End Homelessness in King County

During 2000-2001 St. Mark's Cathedral convened a community dialogue focused on the crisis of homelessness in our community. A feasibility committee was established to investigate the possibility of creating a region-wide response to homelessness. Through these efforts, the Committee to End Homelessness in King County was formed.

In 2002, eight organizations, coalitions, and local governments came together in a unified effort to provide the vision and leadership required to develop and implement a plan to end homelessness in King County, Washington. Committee members and stakeholders in the planning process include homeless or formerly homeless youth and adults, faith communities, philanthropy, businesses, local governments, non-profit human service providers, non-profit housing developers, and advocates.

The eight founding organizations of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County are:

- Church Council of Greater Seattle
- City of Seattle
- Eastside Human Services Alliance
- King County
- North Urban Human Services Alliance
- Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless
- South King County Council of Human Services
- United Way of King County

The leadership and commitment of these entities is gratefully acknowledged.

The Committee to End Homelessness in King County is comprised of representatives from throughout the county. In addition, a number of organizations dedicated staff time and resources to support the efforts of the Committee. Committee members, staff circle, and advisors are listed in the following pages. In addition to those listed, many others participated in planning meetings or provided feedback. The continued participation of these individuals and organizations is essential to ensuring that *Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness* is successful.

Committee to End Homelessness in King County Members

Humberto Alvarez, Staff Circle Co-Chair

Fremont Public Association

Appointed by Seattle-King County

Coalition for the Homeless

Jackie MacLean

King County

Appointed by King County

Dan Brettler, Committee Vice Chair

Car Toys

Appointed by United Way of King County

Doreen Marchione

Hopelink

Appointed by Eastside Human Services Alliance

Fabienne Brooks

King County Sheriff's Office

Member At Large

Patricia McInturff

City of Seattle

Appointed by City of Seattle

Reverend Sandy Brown

Church Council of Greater Seattle

Appointed by Church Council of Greater Seattle

Stephen Norman

King County Housing Authority

Member At Large

Doreen Cato

First Place School

Appointed by Eastside Human Services Alliance

David Okimoto

United Way of King County

Appointed by United Way of King County

Cathy Cochran

Department of Social and Health Services

Member At Large

Ken Perron

Hopelink

Appointed by North Urban Human Services Alliance

Tara Connor

Plymouth Housing Group

Appointed by Seattle-King County Coalition

for the Homeless

Linda Rasmussen

YWCA

Appointed by South King County Council

of Human Services

Dini Duclos

Multi Service Center

Appointed by South King County Council

of Human Services

Leo Rhodes

SHARE

Member At Large

Susi Henderson

WHEEL

Member At Large

Peter Steinbrueck

Seattle City Council

Member At Large

Bill Hobson

Downtown Emergency Service Center

Member At Large

Phil Sullivan

Youth Advocate

Member At Large

Kate Joncas

Downtown Seattle Association

Member At Large

Dean Robert Taylor, Committee Chair

St. Mark's Cathedral

Appointed by City of Seattle

Anne Kirkpatrick

Federal Way Police Department

Member At Large

Dianne Wasson

Home Street Bank

Member At Large

Stephen Lamphear

Burien City Council

Member At Large

Janna Wilson

Heath Care for the Homeless

Appointed by King County

Tony Lee

Fremont Public Association

Member At Large

Randi Wooden

Home Instead Senior Care

Appointed by North Urban Human Services Alliance

Governor Mike Lowry

Church Council of Greater Seattle

Appointed by Church Council of Greater Seattle

Executive Summary

More than 8,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in the suburban cities, urban centers, and rural towns of King County according to our local One Night Count. It is recognized that many other members of our community experience homelessness but are not included in this point in time count. *Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness* is an expression of our collective commitment to actively seek long-term and sustainable solutions to the issue, rather than continuing to simply manage episodes of homelessness as they occur. It is a commitment to ensure that there is an appropriate, affordable roof over the bed of everyone living in King County— whether young or old, living alone or with families, sick or well. Eight organizations, coalitions, and local governments came together in 2002 to form the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, a unified effort to provide the vision and leadership required to develop and implement a plan to end homelessness in King County, Washington. Homeless or formerly homeless youth and adults, faith communities, philanthropy, businesses, local governments, non-profit human service providers, non-profit housing developers, advocates, and other stakeholders from throughout the county were involved in the planning process.

Our Vision for the Future

Ending a complex problem like homelessness requires a commitment from all members of our community—government officials, philanthropies, faith and civic groups, communities of color and their institutions and organizations, businesses including small business owners, housing and service providers, and concerned individuals. It requires a willingness to examine the assumptions under which we have approached this issue in the past, to assess honestly and critically our activities and initiatives, and, ultimately, to do business differently through changing systems, redirecting existing resources, and securing commitments for additional funding. Although the focus of this plan is to end homelessness within ten years through strategies that emphasize permanent housing alternatives and supportive services, the Committee to End Homelessness in King County recognizes that people experiencing homelessness are at immediate personal risk and have a basic right to safety, as do all members of our community. Interim survival mechanisms—services focused on keeping people alive—that respect the rights of all community members and neighborhoods are necessary until such time that affordable permanent housing is available to all.

Homeless Individuals and Families in King County

For the purposes of this plan, it is estimated that more than 8,000 people are homeless in King County each night. This includes:

- 420 youth and young adults up to age 24
- 2,475 people in families
- 5,105 single adults, including 2,500 that meet the federal definition for chronically homeless

These numbers represent the best point-in-time estimate available to the community at the time this plan was issued; providers and advocates believe that these numbers undercount homeless persons. The community will implement strategies to better identify the number of homeless persons in King County.

Through endorsing this plan, communities throughout the county are joining forces to end homelessness. It is a housing and human services undertaking of unprecedented proportions, and one that will require a decade to complete. Our success requires the wholehearted participation of individuals, civic and faith organizations, communities of color and their institutions and organizations businesses including small

business owners, charitable institutions, and government entities in every sector. As a community, we can—and we will—end homelessness.

Together we will:

- End homelessness, not manage it
- Create a new leadership structure that facilitates discussion and collaboration among funders, government agencies, housing and service providers, homeless persons, advocates, and community volunteers to help assure a unified and targeted approach to ending homelessness in King County
- Implement practices that research has shown to be particularly effective and promising
- Focus resources on preventing homelessness and immediately housing those who do experience homelessness, prioritizing a “housing first” approach that removes barriers to housing and provides on-site services that engage and support individuals to maintain their health and housing stability
- Ensure a fully coordinated countywide response at both the client and system level through networking enhanced community-based service sites that offer local access throughout the county to comprehensive assessment, referral, and a range of culturally competent services
- Increase significantly the housing options that are affordable, available, and appropriate to meet the needs of homeless individuals, families, and youth
- Transform the myriad of publicly funded programs that provide services, housing, and income supports to poor people to make them more accessible, relevant, and appropriate for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Bolster the capacity and responsibility of these service systems for collaborative planning, financing, and delivery of housing and support services for clients reentering the community from public institutions
- Establish clear measures to identify needs and assure accountability for outcomes and reward providers who effectively serve those individuals and families with high levels of need.

Activities and Anticipated Outcomes over the Next Decade

Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness is not just about creating housing units— although nearly 4,500 new units will be needed. It also calls for implementing a range of prevention and service-delivery strategies that have been demonstrated to be more effective and efficient than our current practices. The significant focus of this plan is on investing our precious local resources in a manner that better serves homeless people and, in so doing, using our resources more effectively.

Our approach will be to:

- Develop detailed action plans for prevention, outreach, service delivery, and housing
- Improve system-wide efficiencies and outcomes using existing housing stock, funding and resources
- Refine our long-range targets based on increasing levels of knowledge and sophistication
- Seek additional funding from local, state, federal, and philanthropic sources, as needed.

What is Happening with Ending Homelessness?

Year 1

(2005)

- Creating the governance to implement and monitor the plan
- Improving data collection methods, including monitoring the decline of homelessness among those disproportionately affected, including persons of color
- Building the community-wide political will necessary to succeed in years 2 through 10

By the end of 2005:

- An inclusive, effective governing structure is fully operating
- A public awareness campaign is in place to educate the public on the causes, costs, and impacts of homelessness in our community

Years 2 – 5 (2006- 2010)

- Expanding service system eligibility for people at risk of becoming homeless, expediting entry into housing for people who become homeless, and providing appropriate services to them
- Working together with service systems to implement strategies to ensure successful reentry
- Identifying and implementing strategies to address the disproportionate representation of people of color who are homeless
- Realigning existing funds to support programs that research has proven to be effective and restructuring systems to enable better coordination among prevention and service programs
- Developing affordable, supportive housing and assertive outreach and engagement teams to help people secure housing, increase independence, and maintain housing stability
- Coordinating with the Regional Human Services Task Force as appropriate

By the end of 2010:

- The number of individuals and families who experience homelessness will be significantly reduced
- Programs that focus on the long-term homeless will show a decrease in client numbers
- A decline in the number of people living on the streets without shelter will be seen in some areas of the county
- Data collection processes will be in place, including the Safe Harbors HMIS system, and we will use these data to mark progress toward our goals
- The disproportionate number of homeless persons from communities of color will be significantly reduced

Years 6 – 9 (2011- 2013)

- Public institutions (jails, prisons, hospitals, foster care, etc.) and housing programs have collaborated to develop programs and policies to prevent discharging people onto the streets without appropriate housing
- Outreach and engagement teams are engaging people who are homeless on the street and helping them move into housing

By the end of 2013:

- Our infrastructure will be built up such that the public could expect to see a notable decline in street homelessness
- Shelter stays will begin to shorten for all populations, and some shelters will close or reconfigure their programs

Year 10 (2014)

- Fine tuning of the system's transformation
- Using client-outcome and system-outcome data from various sources, including Safe Harbors, to prevent people from becoming homeless in King County

By the end of 2014:

- Homelessness will be virtually ended
- People who enter into homelessness will have immediate access to housing with appropriate supports
- Downsized outreach and emergency services will continue to aid individuals and families who become homeless, but stays in this system will be short
- There will be no need for tent cities or encampments

Next Steps to Ending Homelessness

The Committee to End Homelessness in King County will seek support and endorsement of the plan from key stakeholders throughout the county, including civic and faith groups, communities of color and their institutions and organizations, businesses, small business owners, housing and service providers, homeless persons and their advocates, and elected officials.

In early 2005, a **Governing Board charged with building political will countywide and overseeing plan implementation** will form. The Governing Board will convene a **Consumer Advisory Council** to assist them in formulating policy and monitoring plan implementation. **An Interagency Council comprising representatives of multiple systems will work to set priorities, develop detailed action plans, and coordinate activities.** Our actions will be guided by the vision of “a roof over every bed in King County,” and we will continue our efforts until this simple statement is realized.

RESOLUTION R-4532

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE GOALS OF “A ROOF OVER EVERY BED IN KING COUNTY: OUR COMMUNITY’S TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS” AND STATING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND TO WORK WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN.

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 8,300 people who experience homelessness in this region on any given night; and

WHEREAS, new collaborative efforts and a new focus are needed to achieve measurable results in reducing the number of homeless adults, families and youth/young adults in the region; and

WHEREAS, the community, including government officials, private foundations and funders, the faith community, the business community, and non-profit organizations have worked over the last several years to develop a plan that seeks to end homelessness, not simply manage homelessness, by pursuing new efforts to address homelessness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND THAT:

The City of Kirkland endorses the goals of “A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community’s Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness,” and states our intent to work with government and community partners, faith and civic groups, philanthropies, the business community, non-profit housing and service providers, and others to implement this plan over the next ten years. We will also work with the Committee to End Homelessness to identify our own specific commitments to ending homelessness.

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland the 15th day of November, 2005,

City of Kirkland

Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk