



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 45010, Olympia, Washington 98504-5010

September 6, 2019

The Honorable Will Hall, Mayor
City of Shoreline
17500 Midvale Avenue N.
Shoreline, WA 98133

Dear Mayor Hall,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to thank you for your letter of August 27, regarding the Fircrest School.

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) shares the city's interest in a thoughtful, comprehensive and collaborative planning process for the future of the campus. As you are aware, the legislature provided funding to DSHS to site and design a 48-bed behavioral health facility. As part of that, they required DSHS to complete a preliminary pre-design for this type of facility by December 31, 2019. The department, as part of the pre-design process is looking at a variety of potential sites in our state, including Fircrest School. Our thinking is that a 48-bed behavioral health facility for individuals with developmental disabilities would be compatible with the services Fircrest has long provided. One of the many considerations involves assessing environmental and community impacts. That is why DSHS has been working with the city since 2007, to develop a master plan for the campus. As you know, under current Shoreline zoning, all existing uses on the campus are non-conforming. To date, three of the four phases of campus planning and master planning are complete.

We are currently working on the fourth phase leading to a Master Development Plan for the City's consideration and have completed one of three planned community meetings and three of four planned stakeholder meetings. Our intent is to have this fourth and final phase submitted to the city by December 31, 2019; however, I understand that the city is planning a moratorium on master plan submittals. Therefore, this campus-designated tract of land is likely to continue to be the only one in Shoreline that has no approved and adopted master plan.

The department also shares the city's interest in developing various uses of the campus. We are eager to work with the City of Shoreline in designing thoughtful open space for the community. The first three phases of the master plan made several recommendations for mixed uses, open space and public services among other possibilities. The fourth phase of the plan includes long-range planning for the replacement of existing facilities and proposes this new use that was not anticipated in the reports submitted in 2008, 2010, and 2017.

Fircrest is one of the sites under consideration because it is already a supported campus. The Master Development Plan will evaluate the impact to the environment and community in and around the campus. There is nothing to preclude development of other uses on the campus along with a behavioral health facility. Such a facility would bring approximately 150 more living-wage jobs to Shoreline.

The Honorable Will Hall, Mayor
September 6, 2019
Page Two

You might not be aware that the department not only cares for 200 people who call that campus home, but it also employs over 700 people, more than 160 of whom live in Shoreline.

The Fircrest campus is truly a “large and valuable asset” in the region. It is, primarily, home to 200 of the most vulnerable citizens of this state. The department is fully committed to working with you and will continue, as it has, to work with city staff, community members and other stakeholders in our efforts to create a plan for the campus.

Fondly,



Cheryl Strange
Secretary

DSHS: Transforming Lives

cc: The Honorable Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands
David Schumacher, Director, OFM
Judy Fitzgerald, Assistant Secretary, DSHS