



MAYOR'S OFFICE
33325 8th Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003-6325
(253) 835-2400
www.cityoffederalway.com
Jim Ferrell, Mayor

September 17, 2019

Honorable King County Executive Dow Constantine
Honorable Mayor of Seattle Jenny A. Durkan
Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council
Honorable Members of the King County Council
Honorable King County Mayors

Dear King County Electeds,

At the September 17, 2019 meeting, and with the concurrent approval of the Mayor, the undersigned members of the Federal Way City Council unanimously voted to forward our concerns regarding the proposed King County Regional Homelessness Authority.

On September 4th, the proposal was announced to create a King County Regional Homelessness Authority, a Public Development Authority. This was unveiled at a press conference featuring the King County Executive, the Seattle Mayor, Sound Cities Association (SCA) members and other representatives working on homelessness issues.

It is our understanding that a steering committee and governing board will oversee the proposed King County Regional Homelessness Authority. The steering committee confirms governing board members and has budget authority. The governing board hires, fires, and reviews performance of an executive director and provides guidance, management and oversight of the King County Regional Homeless Authority.

We are concerned with the lack of notification. We became aware of the press conference via live social media feeds after the press conference had begun. Though members of the SCA were present on stage at this press conference, the SCA President, Vice President and Mayor Ferrell, a board member, were not aware of the proposal, though the proposed structure has a role for this organization that represents King County cities.

Due to the overwhelming presence of SCA representatives at this highly publicized event and the inclusion of SCA representation in the governing structure, the appearance was given that SCA had already taken a policy position on this issue and is fully behind this proposition. However, at the time, the SCA board and Public Issues Committee had yet to take an official position on the creation of a Regional Homelessness Authority in King County.

We are also concerned with the absence of collaboration on an initiative regarding one of the significant issues facing our region. The proposal includes a Charter authorizing the creation of a new Public Development Authority (PDA) and an Interlocal Agreement (ILA). Our city did not have input on the Charter nor the ILA, a critical mechanism for cities to participate. Prior to the press conference, the drafts of the Charter and Interlocal Agreement had not been officially shared with the City of Federal Way. In addition, representation of King County cities appears to be disproportionate.

In summary, the proposed creation of an agency as large and encompassing as a Public Development Authority occurred without consultation, especially regarding the critical area of how other King County cities would be represented. The appropriate representation of the unique needs of cities in the proposed governing board and steering committee structure is essential.

We are sharing this letter with Mayors of all cities in King County. We look forward to a dialogue as this initiative moves forward.


Sincerely,




Mayor Jim Ferrell



Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson



Councilmember Hoang Tran



Councilmember Martin Moore



Deputy Mayor Susan Honda



Councilmember Jesse Johnson



Councilmember Mark Koppang



Councilmember Dini Duclos

cc: SCA Board of Directors