



To advocate support for health and human services in North King County through promotion of partnerships between communities and providers.

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January 29, 2020

Debbie Tarry, City Manager
City of Shoreline
17500 Midvale Ave. N
Shoreline, WA 98133

Dear Ms. Tarry,

Thank you for the City's strong support of the Shoreline Severe Weather Shelter. As you know, the Shelter was activated January 12-17 and the inaugural opening went smoothly. Between 4 and 10 individuals were hosted each night and there are now 25 shelter volunteers. The public has been very supportive; our second volunteer training was held last weekend and we continue to receive donated items. We applaud your willingness to make this unique resource available to address the needs of those living unhoused in our community, and your endorsement, along with the City Council' support, have been critical to our initial success.

Building on this success, we are now focused on addressing the more long-term needs of this population. As you know, the key to securing the availability of year-round services depends on a stable, physical location. Our hope is that the City of Shoreline will be a partner in exploring options for such a facility and will help secure a site that can be readily accessible for the people in Shoreline.

There are two current opportunities for consideration, including the Value Village site in North Seattle and the former Police Station in Shoreline. In recent discussions, it appears that the earliest any commitment from the City of Seattle for the acquisition of the Value Village site would come in 2021. It is easy to envision, however, that this site would no longer be on the market at that time. This timing is unfortunate as there appears to be growing interest from King County and the City of Seattle to support the development and operation of such a facility. So, while we continue to support this effort and encourage the City to do so too, it has many hurdles to clear and a long implementation timeline.

We realize the former Shoreline Police Station is currently under contract, but with the interest from King County and perhaps other funders, along with the recognition of a growing need, we ask the City of Shoreline to consider making this facility available year-round for shelter and services for our homeless population. This site presents a unique opportunity to make use of an existing publicly held property, and with site control, the City and its partners may be able to attract significant additional funding to support facility upgrades and program development.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to discuss these and other ideas with you at some point soon.

Sincerely,

Heidi Shepherd
Board President