

RESOLUTION R-5631

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND DECLARING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH A PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DEVELOP A HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE ACTION PLAN FOR NEW POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES THAT PREVENT AND RESPOND TO UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IN KIRKLAND.

- 1 WHEREAS, the City Council's Goals include both 'Attainable
- 2 Housing', to provide access to housing and encourage the construction
- 3 and preservation of housing stock that meet a diverse range of incomes
- 4 and needs, and 'Supportive Human Services,' to meet basic human
- 5 needs, help people through economic and personal crises, help
- 6 individuals thrive, and strive to remove barriers to allow all equal
- 7 opportunities to succeed; and
- 8
- 9 WHEREAS, ensuring access to safe and stable places to live is
- 10 foundational for creating a community where everyone belongs; and
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- 12 WHEREAS, the City Council desires that the experience of
- 13 homelessness be rare, brief, and non-recurring in the city and has made
- 14 significant investments over time in local and regional housing and
- 15 homelessness projects and programs to accomplish this goal; and
- 16
- 17 WHEREAS, in 2023, the City Manager convened an
- 18 interdepartmental team, titled the Coordinated Response to
- 19 Homelessness Team, consisting of leadership across numerous City
- 20 departments to ensure interdepartmental coordination, streamline
- 21 processes, and maximize resources across the homelessness response
- 22 system; and
- 23
- 24 WHEREAS, the City is in the midst of a major update of its
- 25 Comprehensive Plan, including both the Housing and Human Services
- 26 Elements, with a focus on creating new and enhanced policies to foster
- 27 the creation of more affordable housing units in Kirkland and to support
- 28 the City's response to homelessness; and
- 29
- 30 WHEREAS, the Coordinated Response to Homelessness Team
- 31 prioritizes a person-centered and compassionate approach when
- 32 considering situations involving unhoused community members while
- 33 also ensuring the safety of unhoused persons, housed neighbors,
- 34 businesses, visitors, and responding staff; and
- 35
- 36 WHEREAS, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth
- 37 Circuit has made several rulings cautioning cities against taking actions
- 38 to criminalize homelessness, including enforcement of overnight
- 39 camping bans on public spaces unless nearby shelter is available, and

40 the Supreme Court of the United States is reviewing these decisions in
41 2024; and

42
43 WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland's Homeless Outreach
44 Coordinator engaged 124 households representing 160 individuals
45 experiencing homelessness in 2023, the most recent Point-in-Time
46 Count showed a 23% increase in homelessness in King County from
47 2022 to 2024, and there is growing concern that the rising cost of
48 housing will continue to exacerbate the rate at which individuals enter
49 homelessness for the first time; and

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51 WHEREAS, other jurisdictions in King County have seen rapid
52 increases of unhoused residents camping in public spaces and have
53 urged all cities to proactively prepare to respond to such increases; and

54
55 WHEREAS, the City Council remains committed to ensuring
56 public spaces in Kirkland are safe, accessible, and enjoyed by all; and

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58 WHEREAS, the City Council affirms that the City of Kirkland is
59 not a regional homelessness service provider such as King County
60 government, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, and
61 regional non-profit organizations, and that the actions identified through
62 this resolution are intended to support those experiencing
63 homelessness in Kirkland and connect them to regional services; and

64
65 WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes it needs to make
66 concurrent investments in programs, policies, and services along the
67 housing and homelessness continuum of care to keep Kirkland a
68 belonging community enjoyed by all and a place where community
69 members experiencing housing instability have access to resources
70 needed to thrive, with the goal that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-
71 recurring.

72
73 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the
74 City of Kirkland as follows:

75
76 Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed
77 to create a Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan to be
78 presented for Council consideration by December 31, 2024.

79
80 Section 2. The Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan
81 shall provide objectives and actions to support, at minimum, the
82 following identified policy goal areas:

- 83
84 a. Prevent homelessness where possible through continued
85 investment in prevention programs and support of legislation that
86 creates and retains additional affordable housing units.
87
88 b. When homelessness occurs, support unhoused individuals in
89 their transition back to stable housing through relationship-
90 building and re-connecting to resources.
91
92 c. Provide a compassionate and dynamic response to situations
93 involving unhoused residents, acting on a case-by-case basis to

- 95 best meet the unhoused individual's needs with dignity and
 96 respect.
 97
 98 d. Provide timely Homelessness Assistance Response Team
 99 contact with those experiencing homelessness when notified by
 100 anyone submitting non-emergency reports of unhoused
 101 individuals, provide prompt acknowledgment to those submitting
 102 the reports, and explore alternative pathways for the community
 103 to activate the Homeless Assistance and Response Team such
 104 as a dedicated phone line, phone apps and web-based
 105 activation.
 106
 107 e. Collaborate among City departments and with key community
 108 and regional partners at every stage of the continuum of care,
 109 leveraging the unique resources provided by faith-based groups,
 110 regional service providers, A Regional Coalition for Housing
 111 (ARCH), the King County Regional Homelessness Authority,
 112 King County's Permanent Supportive Housing programs on the
 113 Eastside, and other community partners and avoid duplication of
 114 services.
 115
 116 f. Invest in a spectrum of policy and program options to create
 117 choice and accountability for unhoused community members,
 118 including policies for enforcement action if shelter space or
 119 alternative locations are available and other strategies are not
 120 effective.
 121
 122 g. Investigate and build on learnings and best practices from other
 123 communities that have implemented programs, policies, and
 124 services along the housing and homelessness continuum of
 125 care.
 126
 127 h. If enforcement action becomes necessary, utilize enforcement
 128 policies that will prioritize the safety of staff, the unhoused
 129 individual, surrounding housed and unhoused community
 130 members, businesses, and prevent negative impacts to public
 131 lands, critical areas, and waterways.
 132
 133 i. Identify both local and regional short, medium, and long-term
 134 funding strategies to accomplish each of the goal areas.
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136 Section 3. In developing the Homelessness Continuum of Care
 137 Action Plan, including identifying service needs and designing new
 138 programs, the City Manager shall collect feedback from key
 139 stakeholders including, but not limited to, residents, faith-based groups,
 140 service providers, neighboring jurisdictions, landlords, regional housing
 141 and homelessness groups, active and past participants of Kirkland
 142 homelessness programs to incorporate voices with lived experience,
 143 businesses, the Kirkland Downtown Association, the Kirkland Chamber
 144 of Commerce, the Lake Washington School District, and the Lake
 145 Washington Institute of Technology. The City Manager shall use any
 146 public education and engagement tools necessary to collect this

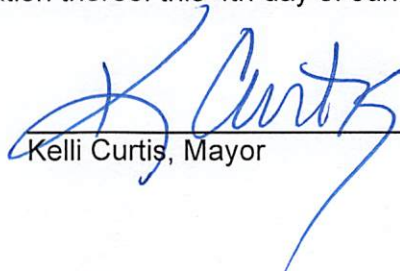
146 feedback including convening town halls and public forums related to
147 the Action Plan.

148
149 Section 4. To support the development of the Homelessness
150 Continuum of Care Action Plan, the City Manager is authorized and
151 directed to:

- 152
- 153 a. Evaluate and refine homelessness data collection strategies to
- 154 right-size solutions to meet Kirkland-specific community needs.
- 155
- 156 b. Prepare issue papers on homelessness response system gaps
- 157 and potential responses to a rapid influx of individuals
- 158 experiencing homelessness identified by the Coordinated
- 159 Response to Homelessness Team to be included with the 2025-
- 160 2026 budget transmittal.
- 161
- 162 c. Evaluate potential funding sources and prepare service
- 163 packages for the 2025-2026 budget process at tiered levels of
- 164 investment for Council consideration.
- 165
- 166 d. Compile summaries of other actions the City has taken related
- 167 to homelessness to include in the Action Plan to support
- 168 comprehensive tracking, evaluation, and reporting to the Council
- 169 and the community.
- 170


171 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
172 meeting this 4th day of June, 2024.

173 Signed in authentication thereof this 4th day of June, 2024.
174



Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:



Kathi Anderson, City Clerk