

RESOLUTION R-5641

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND DEFERRING DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE ACTION PLAN AS CALLED FOR RESOLUTION R-5631 UNTIL 2025.

1 WHEREAS, on June 4, 2024, the City Council adopted
2 Resolution R-5631 declaring the city's commitment to addressing
3 homelessness through a person-centered approach and authorizing the
4 City Manager to develop a Homelessness Continuum of Care Action
5 Plan for new policies, programs, and services that prevent and respond
6 to unsheltered homelessness in Kirkland; and
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8 WHEREAS, R-5631 directed the City Manager to create a
9 Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan to be presented for
10 Council consideration by December 31, 2024; and
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12 WHEREAS, City staff initially planned for a robust community
13 engagement process in support of the action plan to be conducted from
14 August through October of 2024; and
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16 WHEREAS, the adoption of both the City's Comprehensive Plan
17 and biennial budget are required by state law to occur before the end of
18 the year, and both efforts as well as other emerging issues have
19 necessitated an increased amount of staff time and community focus
20 than originally anticipated.
21

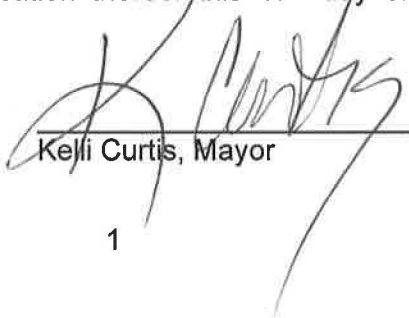
22 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the
23 City of Kirkland as follows:
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25 Section 1. The City Council reaffirms its commitment to
26 addressing homelessness through a person-centered approach and all
27 other actions as articulated in R-5631, included as Exhibit A, except for
28 Section 1, presentation of the Homelessness Continuum of Care Action
29 Plan by the City Manager to the Council by December 31, 2024.
30

31 Section 2. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed
32 to implement the community engagement called for in R-5631 in the first
33 quarter of 2025 and transmit the Homelessness Continuum of Care
34 Action Plan to be presented for Council consideration by April 30, 2025.
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36 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
37 meeting this 17th day of September, 2024.
38

39 Signed in authentication thereof this 17th day of September,
40 2024.


Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:

Kathi Anderson
Kathi Anderson, City Clerk

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
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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
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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
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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
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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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