

RESOLUTION R- 4552

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND ENDORSING THE GOALS OF "A ROOF OVER EVERY BED IN KING COUNTY: OUR COMMUNITY'S TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS" AND STATING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND TO WORK WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN.

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 8,000 people who experience homelessness in King County on any given night; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, 11 percent of homeless households reported North or East King County as their last permanent address; and

WHEREAS, as additional attention is needed to restructure our region's existing homelessness services system from managing homelessness to preventing and ending homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the community, including local governments, the United Way of King County, the faith community, the business community, and non-profit organizations have worked over the last several years to develop a plan outlining new efforts to address homelessness;

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

Section 1. The City Council endorses the goals of "A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness" and concurs with the Plan's "commitment to ensure that there is an appropriate, affordable roof over the bed of everyone living in King County – whether young or old, living alone or with families, sick or well."

Section 2. The City pledges to work with other governmental officials, the United Way of King County, faith and civic groups, communities of color, philanthropies, the business community, non-profit housing and service providers, and others to implement this plan over the next ten years.

Section 3. The City Council approves the guiding principles provided in the attached Interest Statement regarding the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County.

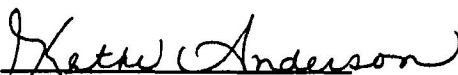
Section 4. The City recognizes that additional resources will be required in order to meet the ambitious goals included in the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness and that local government resources are not adequate to achieve these goals. Therefore, the City of Kirkland will support efforts to increase funding at the federal and state levels to pursue the goals of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 21st day of February, 2006.

Signed in authentication thereof this 21st day of February, 2006.


MAYOR

Attest:


City Clerk

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TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY

INTEREST STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

Eight organizations, coalitions, and local governments came together in 2002 to form the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, an effort to develop and implement a plan to end homelessness in King County. In 2003, planning to end homelessness became a national initiative of the federal government and has since become a requirement for continued receipt of over \$35 million in annual grant assistance to jurisdictions within King County from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A Governing Board charged with building political will countywide and overseeing plan implementation has been formed. The Governing Board will be assisted by a Consumer Advisory Council made up of homeless or formerly homeless individuals and an Interagency Council comprising representatives of multiple systems that serve or are impacted by homelessness. These committees will work to set priorities, develop detailed action plans, and coordinate implementation activities.

PLAN OBJECTIVES

The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness provides a strategy for the community to seek long-term and sustainable solutions to the issue, rather than continuing to manage costly episodes of homelessness as they occur.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The City of Kirkland supports collaborative efforts that prevent individuals from becoming homeless and for those that do experience homelessness, efforts to provide opportunities for permanent housing with appropriate support services designed to assist the individual in becoming as self-sufficient as possible. Such efforts include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Continue to Support a Broad Continuum of Services.** A regional safety net of programs addressing the full spectrum of community needs must be maintained and enhanced. Homelessness is effectively prevented through continued investment in areas such as domestic violence advocacy, mental health treatment, early intervention with at-risk youth, employment counseling and emergency financial assistance.
- **Prioritize Alignment of Existing Funding Resources.** As a first step, funds within the system currently programmed to manage homelessness should be aligned toward efforts to prevent and end homelessness.
- **Recognize Homelessness as a Regional Issue.** All sub-regions should actively partner to improve the regional response to addressing those factors leading to homelessness that have county-wide impacts.
- **Acknowledge Differences in Sub-Regional Needs.** Each sub-region of the county should lead efforts to identify and address factors leading to homelessness that are particularly prevalent in that sub-region.

- **Acknowledge Differences in Sub-Regional Strategies to End Homelessness.** As sub-regional needs differ, so too will strategies to address those needs. County-wide initiatives and funding resources should accommodate sub-regional variation in the programmatic response to preventing and ending homelessness.
- **Enhance Locally Available Services.** Individuals and families at risk of homelessness or who become homeless should be able to access either prevention support or permanent housing with support services that address the root causes of their housing crisis within the community in which they live. Funding originating from federal, state and county sources should be distributed equitably across all county sub-regions to support local responses to homelessness from public, private and non-profit organizations, including faith communities.
- **Continue to Support Existing Conduits for Affordable Housing Production.** Confirm the role of A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) as the primary conduit for the Eastside sub-region's response to issues of housing production that relate to homelessness.
- **Coordinate efforts with the King County Healthy Families and Communities Task Force.** Homeless housing and support services were categorized as Regional Services by the Task Force on Regional Human Services in its report to the King County Regional Policy Council. Therefore, activities of the Committee to End Homelessness and the King County Healthy Families and Communities Task Force should be coordinated as they relate to the development of long-term stable funding for regional human services.
- **Establish Performance Measures and Uphold Accountability.** Performance measures should be designed to track the regional progress in ending homelessness. These measures should be regularly reported to the community and be used to ensure accountability and positive outcomes within the service system.