



King County

Dow Constantine

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July 24, 2015

The Honorable Larry Phillips
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

Pursuant to King County Council Ordinance 17941, enclosed is a report that provides a summary of usage of the King County Men's Winter Shelter for 2014-2015 and an analysis of alternate shelter locations.

Per the requirements of Ordinance 17941, the enclosed report responds to Provisos A, B, and C of Section 86:

A. A summary of usage of the King County men's winter shelter for winter 2014-2015, with the average number of those accommodated and turned away by week;

B. An analysis of potential alternative locations for a men's winter shelter that could accommodate between fifty and one hundred single adult men who are experiencing homelessness. The analysis should compare the winter shelter's current location in the King County administration building with other potential locations in or near the downtown Seattle area. The analysis of potential locations should include for each potential location; and

C. A description of potential opportunities for coordination with the city of Seattle to secure a new shelter location, to expand an existing shelter location or to provide services that would replace the need for emergency shelter.

King County has provided funding for the Men's Winter Shelter for nearly twenty years and it has always been located in the King County Administration Building. When compared to other shelters operating in the downtown area, the costs for operating the Men's Winter Shelter are high. However, as shown by the utilization information contained in the report, demand for emergency housing options also remains high. Consequently, there are often questions about whether the Men's Winter Shelter could be operated in a more cost effective manner or provide a higher level of service if operated at a different location. The report provides an options analysis in the following sections:

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- Section 1: Proviso Background
- Section 2: Men's Winter Shelter Background
- Section 3: 2014/2015 Utilization Data
- Section 4: Alternate Sites
- Section 5: Coordination with the city of Seattle
- Section 6: Conclusion


Together with many partners, King County is dedicated to finding effective short- and long-term solutions to the critical issue of homelessness in our region. Ending homelessness is also a core value in the Equity and Social Justice Initiative. Consequently, emergency shelter should be considered in the context of the overall work DCHS is doing related to a countywide affordable housing strategy. The strategy will recommend promising affordable housing tools that could be used to address specific housing issues, including homelessness. Approaches to shelter will be included as part of the affordable housing strategy that will be delivered to the King County Council in the fall. Having a safe and affordable home is central to the Health and Human Potential goal of the King County Strategic Plan.

It is estimated that this report required 100 hours, costing \$6,368 to produce. There are no printing costs.

We are resubmitting this report as our original package omitted the motion.

Thank you for your interest in our continuing efforts to address homelessness throughout King County. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-1491.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
 Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services