

From: [Benjamin Schroeter](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: I support Health through Housing
Date: Monday, October 5, 2020 7:32:06 PM

To: The Committee of the Whole
Re: Health through Housing

I am unable to attend the meeting but would like the committee to know that I support the Health through Housing initiative and all programs that support the *housing first* principle. Our lack of resources devoted to housing is the single biggest problem our area faces and any and all efforts to address the issue are gratefully welcomed.

Sincerely,

Ben Schroeter
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"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" -- Martin Luther King Jr. (April 16, 1963)

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From: [Masuo, Janet](#) on behalf of [Clerk, King County Council](#)
To: [Daly, Sharon](#); [Steadman, Marka](#); [Calderon, Angelica](#)
Cc: [Pedroza, Melani](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment on Ordinances 2020-0337/8
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 8:02:42 AM

I see 2020-0337 is on today's COW.

From: Kristin Evans <klynn369@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 7:29 AM
To: Clerk, King County Council <Clerk@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: Public Comment on Ordinances 2020-0337/8

Thank you for your consideration. My name is Kristin Evans and I reside in District 8. I was happy to see that my representative, Vice Chair McDermott, advocates for affordable housing on his council home page; so I'm sure you're all aware of how dire the need is here in King County for more homes with accessible price tags. These Health Through Housing initiatives will be instrumental in providing housing for those who can least afford it yet have the greatest need; which will in turn free up low-cost single-family units for families that can afford to get by with just a little mortgage relief. Since the project will reduce both current and future instances of homelessness without placing an undue burden on King County taxpayers, this is a great opportunity to model compassionate and cost-effective Housing First solutions for ending urban encampments in cities across America.

As I can offer two unique perspectives on this issue, I hope you will forgive my letter for being more lengthy than is usually prudent. Firstly, as a requirement for graduating from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Sciences; I completed an internship with Detroit's Neighborhood Service Organization in the fall of 2013, shortly after the one-year anniversary of their NSO Bell Building, the largest supportive housing development in Michigan (probably one of the biggest in the country). I was fortunate to learn first-hand how life-changing these apartments are for the chronically homeless, speaking with many residents while conducting satisfaction research to use for evaluation and improvement. The vast majority of residents I spoke to were maintaining compliance with their mental health recovery plan for the first time in their lives, and many were no longer abusing substances, as well. The quality of life for these struggling citizens had gone from literally in the gutter to the best it had ever been for so many residents, who often found it easier to maintain sobriety when they had someplace they could retreat to avoid peer pressure. I heard from numerous people who finally had stable housing after living on the streets longer than I had even been alive! I believe King County is a place that treats people better than that; which I hope you will prove by passing these vital ordinances.

If you can bear with me for just a few more minutes, I would also like to share my other unique perspective: someone who wakes up every day in Seattle wondering if today is the day that my inevitable path to homelessness begins. Being unable to work due to a remarkable number of debilitating neurodiversities, I was receiving a paltry \$525 a month in benefits (which doesn't even cover my share of room and board- with 3 roommates) before they were cancelled (at the start of the pandemic!!) because I missed an appointment. Without the support of my elderly family, I would already be on the streets (which will surely be a quick death sentence for me). It is only a matter of time before they pass and I find myself with nowhere to go. My only hope is that the people of Puget Sound finally step up to help their neighbors in need with wrap-around rehoming services in place once my shelter is in jeopardy, and the wait list is short. You can help make that happen for King County today.

Passing this pair of ordinances is a good start for showing the world that ending homelessness is

possible, and it's even less costly than one might think! This is a great opportunity for our area to lead the way in Permanent Supportive Housing solutions so that other metropolitan cities. If you believe my experience on either side of this equation may be helpful in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

PS- Also consider adding abandoned shopping malls to the list of properties being considered for repurposing, before Amazon snaps them all up!

From: [Jim McFarland](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Cc: [Mary Jo shannon \(mshn@comcast.net\)](mailto:mshn@comcast.net)
Subject: St. Vincent de Paul Comments on new 0.1% tax to fund housing for chronically homeless people in King County.
Date: Monday, October 5, 2020 12:30:42 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)



We'll be there.

October 5, 2020

King County Council Members:

As President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Seattle King County, I am writing in support of the new 0.1% tax to fund housing for chronically homeless people in King County.

Our base of 1,100 volunteers working out of 50 conferences across the county are in frequent contact with our neighbors struggling to pay rent, utilities and have access to food for their families. Annually we make over 16,000 person-to-person visits helping thousands of families and individuals. Since the beginning of the Coronavirus we have had a significant increase in calls with people needing help with rent especially in South King County.

Places for people to live in dignity is immensely important to finding a path to healing. We are very pleased to hear the planning for the use of this tax is to have case management and wrap around services for the places where people will be living. We also believe these housing opportunities belong to those who have the least resources.

On behalf of our Board, Council, staff, and 1,100 Vincentian volunteers we urge you to pass this tax proposal as part of the Budget presented by the County Executive.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Shannon

Mary Jo Shannon

President, Board of Directors

St. Vincent de Paul Society Seattle/King County

