



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Roberts and City Councilmembers

FROM: Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk

DATE: December 6, 2016

RE: Documents received at 12/05/16 Council Meeting

CC: Debbie Tarry, City Manager
John Norris, Assistant City Manager

Attached hereto are documents received from the public at your December 5, 2016 City Council Regular Meeting.

- 1) Written comment regarding homelessness submitted by Kim Lancaster.
- 2) Northwest Center Brochure submitted by Laethan Wene.

KIM'S COUNCIL TALK
12.5.16

My name is Kim Lancaster. I live in Shoreline.

Since Camp United We Stand, a transitional encampment in Shoreline, left our backyard last March, they have been hosted by Haller Lake United Methodist Church, Richmond Beach Congregational Church and now St. Dunstan's Episcopal. Haller Lake United Methodist has graciously offered to host the Camp again from May through July 2017. But the Camp faces uncertainty come this February. So far the Camp Board of Directors has been unable to secure a site for the Camp for February, March and April. We need to secure a site by the end of December, in order to apply for a Temporary Use Permit and conduct a neighborhood meeting in January.

Camp United We Stand is a self-sustaining group of 35 or fewer residents. The Camp needs a flat parking lot or grassy area with about 10,000 square feet, with access to power and water. The minimum footprint would be 7,500 square feet. The camp uses a tarp fence to provide privacy and security. Many of the campers have been Shoreline residents and attended local schools. If you know of a church or organization that would be willing to host the Camp, please contact me.

The City of Seattle has now established six permanent sites for transitional encampments. The City of Bellevue is considering a permanent shelter site. I ask the City Council and the citizens of Shoreline to follow the lead of Seattle Mayor Murray and the City of Bellevue, and establish a permanent site for Shoreline's transitional encampment. A possible site has been identified in the northeast corner of Hamlin Park near 15th Ave NE. We propose that this site include tiny houses that are well-insulated with electricity, along with a common kitchen, dining area, lavatory, showers, and a washer/dryer. Residents of this tiny house village would pay a minimal maintenance fee, as members of Camp United We Stand do now, to help defray the costs.

It will take a change of attitude for the leaders and citizens of Shoreline to create such a permanent transitional encampment. Some Shoreliners don't want the homeless in our city to have a viable shelter. Some don't believe that it is our duty as citizens to assist those drug addicts, alcoholics, and mentally ill among us. The homeless should live in Seattle or elsewhere. We shudder at the idea of homeless persons urinating, defecating, and shooting up behind our strip malls. Other Shoreliners believe we should give the homeless a roof over their heads and a warm meal, and then address their substance abuse and mental illness. To effectively address the sad reality of the homeless in Shoreline, we need a dialogue. We have residents who are scared and we have residents who care. Let's get them together and have a conversation.

Thank you.

Kim Lancaster
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