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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

October 26, 2017

**Ray Stephanson**  
Mayor

Dave Somers, County Executive  
Snohomish County  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 407  
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Executive Somers,

Thank you for your work to help secure full funding for the Catholic Housing Services/City of Everett "Safe Streets Supportive Housing Project." Every night, hundreds of individuals and families are living outdoors in Everett and Snohomish County. For the last several years, we have pushed to provide more housing opportunities—particularly for those who are chronically homeless—and we appreciate the County's partnership in this effort.

As you know, the County Council added \$1 million to the 2016 adopted budget for the purpose of a homeless housing project and awarded those funds to the City for our Safe Streets Supportive Housing Project through a competitive process. In April 2016, Council requested your Human Services staff to prepare an interlocal agreement with the City in order to transfer the funds. For the last several months, City and County Human Services staff have attempted to work with the County Council to finalize the interlocal but have run into repeated roadblocks. Those roadblocks threaten to significantly delay our project.

I am asking for your help in encouraging the County Council to take swift action to finalize an agreement to release the funds. City and County staff both recommend proceeding by utilizing a single loan to Catholic Housing Services that includes the \$1 million and the \$611,274 that was awarded to the project through a separate County process. That proposal is one of several options outlined in the memo sent to Council Chair Sullivan on Oct. 24, 2017, and represents the best avenue to accomplish the Council's original intent in making the \$1 million available.

It is important to add that while the City is the catalyst for this project and proposes to use City property for the facility, this homeless housing project benefits the entire county. The future residents, regardless of age, will come from the County's Coordinated Entry list, and the 65 units will serve all county residents—not just those who are currently homeless in the city. We believe it was the County Council's intent to serve this population and have been working tirelessly to move forward a successful project for our community.

In order to move the project forward, close financing, and break ground this year, we need the Council to act quickly to release the funding. The County Council has been provided ample information about the project, as well as a proposal for moving forward quickly. If further information is necessary, I have tasked Hil Kaman, public health and safety director and Becky Ableman McCrary, housing and community development program manager, with providing you or the Council with any information about the project necessary to move this quickly to resolution.

Every delay in this project means people spend more time sleeping outdoors and we ignore the clear mandate from our community to respond to the crisis of homelessness. I appreciate your support in urging the County Council to make good on their commitment to fund homeless housing through its award of funding to the Safe Streets Supportive Housing Project.

Sincerely,

  
Ray Stephanson  
Mayor

Cc: Everett City Council  
Snohomish County Council  
Rob Van Tassell, Vice President, Catholic Housing Services  
Hil Kaman, Director of Public Health & Safety, City of Everett  
Becky Ableman McCrary, Planning & Community Development