

Hope Covenant Church

Neighborhood Meetings



Snohomish County

Reason for Moving Locations

- Since 2019, Snohomish County has funded a congregate shelter operated by Everett Gospel Mission at a church in downtown Everett.
 - Also functioned as a COVID-19 relief shelter and cold weather shelter.
- This location was never intended to serve as the long-term location for the shelter. Lacks needed amenities, including hygiene, and would require significant renovations.
- City of Everett administration asked the County to evaluate the Hope Covenant Church as a possible replacement location.



Why the Hope Covenant Church?

- Over the last several years, Snohomish County has conducted site visits and evaluated approximately a dozen facilities to serve as a new location.
 - Locations did not meet the need due to a variety of factors: required significant renovations; poor access to services and/or transit, etc.
- From a facilities and services perspective, the Hope Covenant Church appears to be a suitable replacement location because:
 - Has adequate space for the year-round and climate shelter beds
 - Meets additional storage and distribution needs (A/C program)
 - Can be closed off on the residential side
 - Near transit and services



Neighborhood Outreach Meetings

- Door-knocking to addresses within 1,000 feet of the HCC.
 - Approx. 309 addresses
 - Conversations with those who answered and were interested in talking
 - Left postcards with instructions on how to attend an upcoming meeting and/or receive updates over email.
- Goal of meetings is to provide venues for feedback, hear concerns, and answer questions ahead of any potential public hearings.
- Should the proposal move forward, there would also be public hearings in front of the City and County Councils.



Timeline



Currently

Initial Proposal

- The County evaluated the facility, determined it to be in good repair, and entered negotiations with the seller to determine cost.
- The County is considering purchasing the Hope Covenant Church and using it for:
 - New location for 40 year-round beds currently in downtown Everett
 - Approx. 50-60 climate shelter beds for use during cold weather, heat, and smoke
 - Potentially serve as storage and distribution site for Energy Assistance Program that provides A/C units to low-income residents.
 - Would not expand the facility beyond the existing footprint, and would not add beds beyond 40 year-round and approx. 50-60 climate beds.



Potential Project Elements

- 24/7 on-site staffing
- Code of Conduct which would include behavior expectations, safety protocols, and grounds/process for termination from the project.
- Good Neighbor Agreement which would include 24/7 contact number for neighbors and community members to contact the shelter to report immediate issues, opportunities for community involvement, and regular patrol of the property perimeter to ensure the property is maintained, garbage is picked up, and to discourage people from loitering.
- Maintenance Plan and anticipated facility improvements to mitigate community impacts, including restricted, staff-only building access on Rucker Ave, participant access on Evergreen Way given the accessibility of public transit, and privacy fencing surrounding the facility as well as high-wall hedging along Rucker Ave.
- Supportive services with the primary goals of stabilizing behavior, meeting basic needs, and assisting participants in transitioning to permanent housing.



Addressing Neighborhood Impact

- Current reports of camping on hillside and existing properties.
- Could contract with security that patrols surrounding neighborhood.
- Could implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: Landscaping, encampment clean-up, lighting, etc.

