



July 31, 2023

City Manager Adolfo Bailon
Deputy Mayor Kevin Schilling
City of Burien, WA
400 SW 152nd St, Suite 300
Burien, WA 98166

Dear City Manager Bailon and Deputy Mayor Schilling,

I am writing today to clarify the King County Regional Homelessness Authority's (KCRHA) role in the effort to resolve the encampment in Burien, and clearly state the steps necessary to use the offer of funds and Pallet shelters from King County.

At the July 24, 2023 Burien City Council meeting inaccurate statements were made on the record.

First, Deputy Mayor Schilling claimed that he and City Manager Bailon had identified a partner who had more than 100 units of various types of housing (e.g., rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing) available. Based on what the City Manager reported later in the meeting and subsequent blog reports, it is clear you were referencing a KCHRA partner that owns and operates a hotel in Renton. While they do own and lease hotels that may be used for emergency shelter, it is neither rapid rehousing, nor permanent supportive housing, and does not have a service provider.

Following the statements at the Council meeting, KCRHA staff reached out to the hotel owner to gauge their interest in partnering with Burien and the KCRHA. The owner was clear that the use of its building would require rental of the entire hotel at significant cost, as well as identifying and contracting with a service provider for day-to-day site management and service connection. We saw over the weekend that the City has since concluded that the Renton site would not be appropriate. The KCRHA would have been happy to discuss these concerns with you prior to the meeting, but we were not alerted to your interest in the hotel.

During the Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Schilling claimed Burien was waiting on KCRHA to "get on board" and that "it's up to KCRHA now to work with us and make sure these people have the services and shelter they need." In a July 29 post on the Burien-News it was implied that Deputy Mayor Schilling said that KCRHA "refuses to apply the funds offered by King County". However, release of the \$1 million from King County to KCRHA is contingent on identification of a site by the City of Burien.

To be clear: King County has not released the \$1 million to the KCRHA.

Additionally, as stated by the KCRHA via email on Monday, July 24 and Tuesday, July 25, King County informed KCRHA that the \$1 million offered by the County to help resolve this encampment is intended to be spent *in* Burien. However, as also stated in the same communication, the County is willing to consider use in a different jurisdiction if the City of Burien has the support of the jurisdiction

where the emergency housing would be located.

The sequence of steps required has been provided in email correspondence that began on June 14th between Burien and KCRHA staff and phone calls with staff and Burien councilmembers (of which conversation summaries were sent via email to Council with staff included): **the money will be released to KCRHA after a location for services has been identified by the City of Burien.**

Should Burien accept the funding offer and identify land on which to site emergency housing, King County would transfer the \$1 million to KCRHA, and KCHRA would release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a service provider. KCRHA will ensure this process is efficient and does not anticipate any issues securing a provider.

Since late February, when the condominium association voted to displace people experiencing homelessness around Burien City Hall which subsequently led to additional removals and displacement, KCRHA has been in regular communication with City of Burien staff, local service providers, and King County to identify solutions.


KCRHA actions included:

- At the request of City staff, KCRHA researched sanctioned encampments and identified a local organization willing to sponsor a sanctioned encampment in Burien.
- KCRHA offered a proposal to the City of Burien which could have resulted in micro-modular emergency housing in Burien, with subsidized units for Burien set-asides.
- KCRHA convened weekly meetings with outreach providers and City staff to check-in on the residents of the encampment, provide situational updates, and discuss potential solutions.
- In response to City of Burien staff, KCRHA provided details on the steps necessary to take advantage of the comprehensive solution offered by King County.

It is our sincere hope that the Burien City Council can reach agreement on a solution that will move people inside in a responsible, timely, and humane manner. Accepting the offer of funds and Pallet shelters from King County and approving a location, such as the City-owned parking lot, Seattle City Light property, or other local option, is a viable solution to ensure the well-being of Burien's residents.

KCRHA is committed to working with the City of Burien to quickly provide emergency shelter and needed services as soon as the City of Burien approves a location.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Anne Burkland
Chief of Staff, KCRHA

cc: Burien City Council
Colleen Brandt-Schluter, Human Services Manager, City of Burien
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, King County Executive Office