



King County

Rod Dembowski
Councilmember, District 1
Metropolitan King County Council

November 4, 2015

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Via Email

Director Anthony Wright
Facilities Management Division
401 5th Ave. Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Rev

Re: 420 4th Avenue Building

Dear Director Wright:

I know we have a shared commitment in ensuring all residents of King County have a safe, warm, and dry place to sleep, especially as we approach the cold winter months. I appreciate your continued work to increase winter shelter capacity in the King County Administration Building and other efforts underway by the Facilities Management Division and Executive Constantine to find shelter and housing capacity in King County.

The sobering news is that the crisis of homelessness is only increasing. Results from the 2015 Annual One Night Count found that 3,772 men, women, and children had no shelter in King County, a substantial increase over those found without shelter last year. Just this week, Executive Constantine and Seattle Mayor Murray declared homelessness an emergency in Seattle and King County and announced new investments to respond to homelessness.

The evidence is clear; we need substantial additional emergency shelter space. It is with this in mind that I ask you to examine the possibility of converting some space in the recently acquired 420 4th Avenue Building to temporary emergency shelter. I would like to know the feasibility of converting the building, any safety issues that may exist, and the costs associated with such a transition. I am not presently aware of an imminent County use for this building. With wet fall weather already upon us, I would much rather we put this asset to use than leave county residents on the streets while the building sits empty.

King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue Suite 1200, Seattle, WA 98104
206-477-1001 Fax 206-296-0198 rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov www.kingcounty.gov/dembowski

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Thank you for your immediate attention to this crucial matter. If you have further questions or concerns, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at 206-296-1001 or at rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Dembowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rod" being particularly prominent.

Rod Dembowski
King County Councilmember
District One

Copy: Michelle Allison