



King County

Metropolitan King County Council Law, Justice and Human Services Committee

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM: 5

DATE: July 17, 2008

PROPOSED MOTION: 2008-0313

PREPARED BY: Kelli Carroll

SUBJECT: A MOTION accepting the annual progress report on the implementation of the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan, as required by Ordinance 15632.

SUMMARY: Proposed motion 2008-0313 accepts the annual progress report on the implementation of the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy Improvement Plan as required by Ordinance 15632 and authorizes the Department of Community and Human Services to continue with levy planning and implementation efforts.

This motion has a dual referral to the Law, Justice and Human Services and the Regional Policy Committees. At the July 9th Regional Policy Committee, Motion 2008-0313 received a “do pass” recommendation.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, King County voters approved the Veteran’s and Human Services Levy which provides approximately \$13,300,000 per year (\$0.05 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) for six years. Collections began in 2006. The purpose of the levy is to fund health and human services such as housing assistance, mental health counseling, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and employment assistance; as well as capital facilities and improved access to and coordination of services for veterans, military personnel and their families. Fifty percent of the levy proceeds are dedicated to these services for veterans, military personnel and their families; and fifty percent are dedicated to improving health, human services and housing for a wider array of King County citizens in need.

In April 2006, the Council approved Ordinance 15406, which provided direction as to how the money from the levy should be spent, specifying that “the proceeds shall be used primarily to prevent or reduce homelessness and unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice and emergency medical systems for veterans, military personnel and their families and other individuals and families most at risk.” The levy funds are dispersed into five broad strategy areas corresponding to the Council’s direction: veterans, homelessness, behavioral health, strengthening families and resource management and evaluation. As stipulated in the ballot measure, funds are divided equally between veteran and non-veteran populations. These overarching strategies are outlined below:

Strategy	Description
Strategy One	Enhancing services and access for veterans (Veterans Levy Fund only)
Strategy Two	Ending homelessness through outreach, prevention, permanent supportive housing and employment
Strategy Three	Increasing access to behavioral health services
Strategy Four	Strengthening families at risk (Human Services Levy Fund only)
Strategy Five	Increasing effectiveness of resource management and evaluation

Annually, at least \$2 million of veterans funds are designated for enhancements to the existing King County Veterans' Program, and \$1.5 million in non-veterans funds are dedicated to early childhood prevention and intervention. Levy administration costs are about five percent of the total funds.

The Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board and the Veterans Citizens Levy Oversight Board were convened in February, 2007. The boards have established extensive procedures for the review of procurement plans that includes a period for public comment. The board review process includes an initial review of the procurement plan by the full board before release for public comment. Once the two week comment period is concluded, the board, through its appropriate subcommittee, re-reviews the procurement plans along with the public comment and then forwards the final revised plan to the full board for its concluding review.

Through the course of briefings in 2007, the Council determined that more frequent and detailed information on levy expenditures was required. Thus with the adoption of the King County's annual Budget via Ordinance 15975, the Council required the submission of quarterly reports for the Veterans and Human Services Levy by the Executive.

ANALYSIS: The annual Veterans and Human Services Levy progress report submitted by the Executive on June 1, 2008 generally meets the criteria set forth in Ordinance 15632, including providing updated financial plans and a board report.

By the end of 2007, the Levy boards and DCHS staff conducted ten Request for Proposal (RFP) processes and entered into contracts with 61 community based agencies throughout King County.

Highlighted 2007 activities include:

- Expansion of the King County Veterans' Program, providing basic living stability services such as food, utilities and transportation assistance to help veterans and families in need.
- Opening of a new office in Renton, co-located with the WorkSource Renton office.
- Establishing comprehensive assessment and case management services at the Veterans' Program.
- Expanding King County's contract with Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs to:
 - Increase post traumatic stress disorder counseling by 3,000 hours
 - Provide 470 additional hours of professional training

- Expand the successful Veterans' Incarcerated Program to reach and assist veterans in regional jails, resulting in over 14,000 jail days avoided and saving taxpayers \$1.6 million
- Reserve an additional 28 shelter beds for veterans
- Implementation of the Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives for Seniors (PEARLS), a program for older, low income adults with chronic health conditions and experience minor depression.
- Funding the Healthy Start home visitation program serving first time, high risk parents under the age of 23.

Summary information of the combined Veterans and Human Services Levy data is shown in the following table:

2006-2007 Veterans and Human Services Levy Program Plan \$\$	Step 1 Board/Public Review of Plans	Step 2 Funds Committed	Step 3 Funds Expended
23,400,580	20,284,112	15,641,138	3,458,390
Percent of Revenue	87%	67%	15%

- 87% (\$20,284,112) of the \$23 million available for programming has been through the planning phase; activity plans for the balance of the funds are scheduled to enter the pipeline the first half of 2008.
- 67% (\$15,641,138) of the \$23 million available for programming has been through the RFP process or have been committed via letter of award, memorandum of agreement or through internal King County implementation (such as the Veterans program expansion).
- 15% (\$3,458,390) of the \$23 million available was expended by December 31, 2007; King County pays on a reimbursement basis. Contracted agencies have to spend the fund and submit reimbursement requests to the county before any funds are released.

There have been changes since the 2006 annual report financial plan. Actual revenue has been higher than the Service Improvement Plan and earlier financial plans projected. Though actual expenditures are lagging the financial plans (attachments 5 and 6) indicate that over \$22 million of the funds are committed as reserved. There is a \$2.9 million undesignated fund balance for both funds combined in 2007.

Because actual revenue has been higher than projected, and is expected to be higher in future years, the two levy boards have been considering which activities outlined in the Service Improvement Plan should receive additional funding.

The Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board has recommended that the additional Human Services Levy funding be invested in Strategy 4, Strengthening Families at Risk, specifically, the employment component for young parents in the Nurse Family Partnership program. Consistent with established board practice, a revised program design for that activity will shortly be posted on the levy web site for public review and comment. Other additional funds are available on a one-time basis, and rather than investing these funds into ongoing programs that may not be able to be maintained, the board has recommended using them for capital investment in homeless housing.

The Veterans Citizens Levy Oversight Board has recommended that the additional Veterans Services funds be invested in Strategy 1, Enhancing Services for Veterans and Their Families, for a variety of targeted initiatives, including expanding outreach to underserved communities through contracts with community-based organizations (to be selected through an RFP process). A revised program design will be posted on the levy web site for public review and comment. Additional funds are also available on a one-time basis, and rather than investing these funds into ongoing programs that may not be able to be maintained, the board has recommended using them for one-time activities such as homeless veterans housing and community events or veterans "stand downs".

Additional funds available for remaining years of the levy are as yet undetermined.

The changes in the ongoing and additional one time funds for 2008 are summarized in attachment 8, the revised Service Improvement Plan *Appendix D: Veterans and Human Services Levy Financial Allocation Plan*.

Any 2008 supplemental budget authority requested to expend the unprogrammed revenue would be subject to the Council's Operating Budget, Fiscal Management and Select Issues Committee review process.

Levy Evaluation: Ordinance 15632 calls for the inclusion of an annual evaluation report which is not included in the June 1 transmittal. Executive staff indicate that a preliminary data analysis is expected in late 2008 which in turn, may be included in the 2008 progress report provided to the Council. The staff person hired to complete the evaluation reports was brought on board in early 2008.

In addition, a Levy Evaluation Framework document was completed in September of 2007 and is currently posted on the levy website. The Framework document states that evaluation efforts will compare the current status with the results produced over the next few years. In 2008, the comparison will include the Strategies to Enhance Services for Veterans and their Families, and Strategies to End Homelessness reports. 2009 reports include Strategies to Improve Behavioral Health Status, Strategies to Promote Family Stability and Effective Child Development, and Midpoint Evaluation on Planning and Implementing the Levy.

Geographic Data: The 2007 annual progress report does not include a discreet breakout of geographic services across the county nor includes data on individual utilization of services by jurisdiction though it was requested with the passage of Motion 12618 that accepted the 2006 annual progress report last year. Specifically, it was requested that future annual progress reports provide information on the geographic distribution of levy resources across the county, including numbers of individuals served by jurisdiction.

Subsequent to the transmittal of the 2007 annual progress report and June 1, 2008 Law, Justice and Human Services Committee meeting, department staff provided geographic data to Council staff (attachment 9).

The following table shows the break out of levy strategy areas by sub-region of King County.

**Veterans and Human Services Levy
Committed Funds 7-10-08
By Sub-region**

County-wide*	\$10,378,676
Seattle	\$6,559,470
South	\$6,358,175
East	\$1,633,915
North	\$1,513,277
TOTAL	\$26,443,513

The "county-wide" category includes agencies that provide services across the county regardless of the particular location of the agencies. People served by "countywide" agencies may live anywhere in the county, usually because the agency has multiple locations and/or partners.

As noted on attachment 9, all subcontractors are required to report geographic data of the clients served. This data will begin to be submitted to the department in mid to late 2008 and will be included in the 2008 annual progress report.

The 2008 second quarter report will include a map of service locations.

Reducing Recidivism for King County Veterans: In May of 2008, the United States Interagency Council to End Homelessness named King County's Jail Initiative project as one of 20 Innovations Achieving Results for reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for incarcerated veterans (attachment 10). The incarcerated veterans project returns cost savings on average of over \$550,000 annually. The Jail Initiative Project is partly supported with Veterans and Human Services Levy funds.

This intervention for incarcerated veterans reduces the number of episodes and duration of incarcerations by participating veterans and increases the number of veterans who become employed and secure a stable living environment. Data for 2006 show that, over the lifetime of the program (1998 - 2005), there has been an average annual savings to taxpayers of \$550,791. The average annual recidivism rate in the program is 16.6% versus the general recidivism rate for King County of 57.7%.

King County Corrections works closely with the: King County Veterans Program and the Community Services Division of the Department of Community and Human Services; the King County judicial system and the Prosecutors' Office; the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs; the Addictions Treatment Center at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Seattle; and a variety of public and private agencies, including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The program currently is being replicated in Tacoma and Vancouver.

Board membership update: There are four vacancies on the Human Services Levy Oversight Board. Council districts four, six and seven are vacant as well as one executive appointee position. There are two vacancies on the Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board. Council districts six and nine are vacant. Council district staff are working on identifying potential district representatives.

Representatives from the Department of Community and Human Services will be available for questions from the Committee.

ATTENDEES:

- Debora Gay, Manager, Veterans and Community Services Programs, Community Services Division, Department of Community and Human Services
- Douglas Hoople, Chair, Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board
- Joe Ingram, Chair, Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board
- Linda Peterson, Community and Human Services Division Director, Department of Community and Human

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Motion 2008-0313
2. Ordinance 15632
3. Executive transmittal letter dated May 28, 2008
4. Veterans and Human Services Levy 2007 Annual Report
5. Veterans Levy Financial Plan
6. Human Services Financial Plan
7. Motion 12168
8. Revised Service Improvement Plan *Appendix D: Veterans and Human Services Levy Financial Allocation Plan*
9. Levy Commitments-Geographical Allocation by Sub Region, July 10, 2008
10. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness e-newsletter, May 23, 2008



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 10, 2008

Motion

Proposed No. 2008-0313.1

Sponsors Ferguson and Lambert

1 A MOTION accepting the annual progress report on the
2 implementation of the King County Veterans and Human
3 Services Levy Service Improvement Plan, as required by
4 Ordinance 15632.

5
6 WHEREAS, the voters of King County approved a ballot measure in November
7 2005 to create a regional health and human services fund to benefit veterans, military
8 personnel and their families and other residents in need, and

9 WHEREAS, in April 2006, the King County council approved Ordinance 15406,
10 calling for the creation of a service improvement plan to guide the steps of
11 implementation and use of the funds, and

12 WHEREAS, in October 2006, the King County council approved Ordinance
13 15632, calling for annual reporting on the implementation of the levy service
14 improvement plan, and

15 WHEREAS, Ordinance 15632 directs the county executive to submit to the
16 council and the regional policy committee the first annual progress report by June 1,
17 2007, and an annual progress report each year thereafter through 2011;

Motion

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
19 The King County council accepts the 2007 annual progress report on the
20 implementation of the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy Service
21 Improvement Plan, Attachment A to this motion, and authorizes the department of
22 community and human services to proceed with levy planning and implementation.
23

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments A. Veterans and Human Services Levy 2007 Annual Report



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 23, 2006

Ordinance 15632

Proposed No. 2006-0453.2

Sponsors Ferguson, Lambert and von Reichbauer

1 AN ORDINANCE adopting the service improvement plan
2 guiding the management and expenditure of the proceeds
3 from the veterans and human services levy, as required by
4 Ordinance 15406.

5
6
7 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

8 SECTION 1. Findings:

9 A. The metropolitan King County council approved Ordinance 15279, placing on
10 the ballot a measure to create a regional health and human services fund to benefit
11 veterans and their families and other residents in need. Council Ordinance 15279 became
12 Proposition No. 1: Veterans and Human Services Levy. In November 2005, the voters
13 of King County approved the levy.

14 B. In April 2006, the metropolitan King County council approved Ordinance
15 15406, "An ordinance providing direction regarding the expenditure of proceeds from the
16 regional human services levy for veterans and others in need" and calling for the creation
17 of a service improvement plan to guide the use of the funds.

18 **SECTION 2. Service improvement plan.** The service improvement plan, as
19 required in Ordinance 15406 and that is Attachment A to this ordinance, is hereby
20 adopted to guide the management and expenditure of the proceeds from the veterans and
21 human services levy.

22 **SECTION 3. Management and administration.** The department of community
23 and human services shall have lead responsibility for implementing the service
24 improvement plan, with oversight from two advisory boards, and shall serve as the fund
25 and administrative manager for the veterans and human services levy. Levy proceeds
26 shall be divided in half and deposited in two separate funds, a veterans services levy fund
27 and a regional health and human services levy fund. The department shall work in
28 cooperation with other county departments and branches of government and the levy
29 advisory boards to ensure the goals and objectives of the levy are achieved.

30 **SECTION 4. Procurement of services.** The department of community and
31 human services shall develop procurement plans in consultation with other funding
32 agencies and shall review these plans with the veterans and regional human services
33 oversight boards before initiating provider selection and contracting processes. The plans
34 for each service improvement strategy shall include expected outcomes and other criteria
35 based on best practices and needs assessment information and shall include consideration
36 of the need for geographic, cultural and linguistic access and the composition of proposal
37 review panels. The department of community and human services shall convene the
38 proposal review panels and assure their membership contains appropriate technical
39 expertise and oversight board representation and avoids conflicts of interest.

40 SECTION 5. Annual reporting. By June 1, 2007, and each year thereafter
41 through 2011, the department of community and human services or its successor shall
42 prepare and the executive submit to the council and regional policy committee for review
43 and acceptance by motion an annual progress report on the implementation of the King
44 County Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan.

45 A. The initial progress report shall include:

46 1. A description of how service improvements have been procured to date and
47 the status of service and project implementation;

48 2. A detailed evaluation plan laying out the process, content, schedule and
49 annual report format for implementation, provider performance and outcome evaluation
50 for each of the service and capital improvement areas;

51 3. An updated financial plan showing actual and projected revenue and
52 expenditures for the veterans and regional human services funds for each year of the levy
53 and explaining changes from the previous year's financial plan; and

54 4. A report or reports from the oversight boards regarding their assessment of
55 progress and any recommendations they may have for improvement of levy program
56 operations and results.

57 B. Subsequent progress reports shall include the annual evaluation report, the
58 updated financial plan with an explanation of changes and the report from the oversight
59 boards and shall address action taken to correct poor performance and adjust or
60 reprioritize strategies that do not achieve desired results.

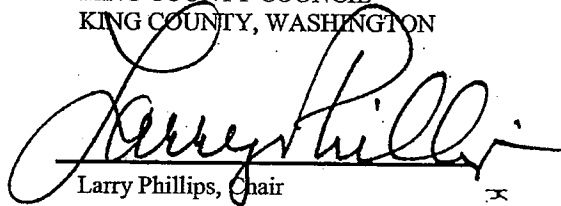
Ordinance 15632

61 SECTION 6. Annual council budget review. The levy service improvement
62 financial plan, including the next year's projected allocations by service improvement
63 strategy, is subject to review and possible modification in the annual budget process.
64

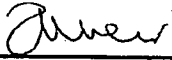
Ordinance 15632 was introduced on 10/2/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 10/23/2006, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr.
Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Constantine and Ms. Patterson
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Phillips, Chair

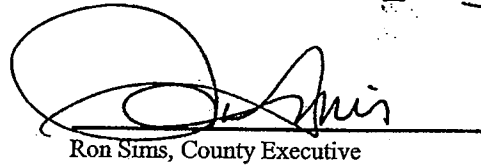
ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

RECEIVED
2006 NOV -3 PM 3:37
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED this 3 day of November, 2006.


Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments A. King County Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan--King
County Department of Community and Human Services--September 2006



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3210
Seattle, WA 98104

206-296-4040 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

2008-313

May 28, 2008

The Honorable Julia Patterson
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Patterson:

Pursuant to Ordinance 15632 passed by the King County Council on April 10, 2006, enclosed for County Council review and acceptance is the 2007 Annual Report on implementation of the Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan.

The 2007 Levy Annual Report is a progress report on implementation efforts, and fulfills the requirements of Ordinance 15632, which specified:

"By June 1, 2007, and each year thereafter through 2011, the department of community and human services shall prepare and the executive shall submit to the council and regional policy committee for review and acceptance by motion an annual progress report on the implementation of the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan."

The enclosed progress report is intended to be shared with the broader community. It includes a report from the chairs of the two oversight boards, highlights of levy-funded service improvements in 2007 for each of the overarching strategies, and an update on evaluation activities.

An updated financial plan for each of the two levy funds is also enclosed, along with a revised Service Improvement Plan Appendix D: Veterans and Human Services Levy Financial Allocation Plan.

Background

In November 2005, King County voters approved a ballot measure generating over \$13 million annually for six years to help people in need across the county. Half of the revenue funds services for veterans, military personnel and their families, and the other half funds a range of regional health and human services for low-income and special needs individuals and families.

Two separate funds were established. To begin implementation, in April 2006, the King County Council approved Ordinance 15406 requiring development of a Service Improvement Plan to describe priority populations and investment areas for expenditure of the proceeds. It also clarified the roles and the process for appointing the members of two new citizen oversight boards. In October 2006, the council approved the Levy Service Improvement Plan (Ordinance 15632). The Service Improvement Plan identified four target service populations:

1. Veterans, military personnel and their families in need.
2. Individuals/families with long-term homelessness.
3. Individuals recently released from prison or jail.
4. Families and young children at risk for homelessness or involvement in justice or other systems.

The plan established five overarching investment strategies to focus levy efforts and resources:

1. Enhancing services and access for veterans and their families.
2. Ending homelessness through outreach, prevention, permanent supportive housing and employment.
3. Increasing access to behavioral health services.
4. Strengthening families at risk.
5. Increasing effectiveness of resource management & evaluation.

Levy activities are carefully aligned with other initiatives (Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, criminal justice initiatives, etc.) targeting the same or similar populations, in a concerted effort to foster collaboration, maximize resources, and achieve shared goals and objectives.

Advisory Board Report on 2007 Activities

The Veterans and Human Services Levy called for the creation of two new citizen oversight boards responsible for reviewing the expenditure of levy proceeds and reporting annually to the Executive and King County Council on levy implementation progress. One board provides oversight to veterans' programs and services and the other provides oversight for regional human services helping other individuals and families in need. Ordinance 15279 called for councilmembers to identify citizens to serve on the levy boards. While the recruitment process took several months, in February 2007, the council completed the nomination process for a majority of the nominees to the Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) and the Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB). The boards convened that month.

The major activity of the boards since February 2007 has been reviewing two kinds of implementation plans for the various activities funded under each of the levy's five overarching strategies: program designs and procurement plans. Program designs describe activities that will be implemented by King County agencies, such as the King County Veterans' Program or the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, while procurement plans describe how community-based services will be procured to implement levy activities. Procurement plans form the basis for subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) processes. The boards established a protocol for reviewing procurement plans that includes a public comment period in addition to board review. During 2007, the boards reviewed 18 plans representing most of the levy's activities.

Once procurement plans have been reviewed by the boards, RFP's are conducted by King County staff to select community-based agencies to implement levy funded activities. A review panel evaluates proposals received through the competitive process and recommends agencies to receive funds. Board representatives serve on each of these review panels. Ten RFP processes had been conducted by the end of 2007.

To keep the public informed of activities, the levy's web site has been revised. On the new, user friendly site, individuals can access a variety of information, such as the council-adopted Service Improvement Plan that guides the levy investments, the monthly schedule of board and committee meetings, public comment forms for draft plans under review, finalized plans and updates, any current RFP materials, board membership including a membership application, and the framework for levy evaluation. The address for the new website is <http://www.kingcounty.gov/DCHS/Levy>.

With only a few procurement plans and program designs remaining to be reviewed, in 2008 the board's role will be shifting to oversight of levy implementation. The boards will receive progress reports on levy funded projects to determine the status of implementation, and review monitoring reports prepared by King County staff, as well as reports from the levy evaluators. These will help inform future suggestions from the boards for levy improvements.

Overarching Levy Strategies

The Veterans and Human Services Levy 2007 Annual Report provides highlights of activities under each of the five levy strategies and includes stories of individuals and families whose lives have benefited from services provided by agencies receiving levy funding.

Strategy One: Enhancing services and access for veterans and their families. King County is home to more than 150,000 veterans, military reservists, and members of the National Guard. Strategy one focuses on improving service access for this population, including the following major goals:

- Assisting veterans and their families by increasing access to information about services;
- Increasing geographic access to services throughout the county; and
- Linking veterans to the services that will help them attain and sustain a stable and more successful life in the community.

The first step in achieving these goals was increasing funding for the King County Veterans' Program. Levy funds have allowed the Veterans' Program to expand its basic living stability services such as food, utilities and transportation assistance to help veterans and families in need. The program reserved an additional 28 shelter beds for veterans, added additional social workers, and established comprehensive assessment and case management services.

Outreach was expanded and a new office was established in Renton to increase geographic access of their services, co-located with the WorkSource Renton office. This office provides social workers and case management assistance, along with the full range of WorkSource Renton employment and training programs, making services more accessible to veterans in south King County.

The King County Veterans' Program expanded its contract with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, which resulted in increasing individual and group post traumatic stress disorder counseling by 3,000 hours. The increased funding also provided for 470 additional hours of professional training and consultation and increased community education. In addition, the enhanced contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs allowed for an expansion of the successful Veterans' Incarcerated Program to reach and assist veterans in the Issaquah, Auburn, Kent, Renton, Redmond and Enumclaw jails.

Strategy Two: Ending Homelessness through Outreach, Prevention, Permanent Supportive Housing and Employment. The King County Council identified ending homelessness as a high priority for the levy-funded services. Review of plans under this strategy began shortly after the levy boards convened, and during 2007, a total of six procurement plans were reviewed. King County staff conducted subsequent RFPs to identify community agencies to implement projects under this levy strategy. Some projects funded through these RFPs have begun providing services to the community, including Plymouth Housing Group's Langdon and Anne Simons Senior Apartments, which is highlighted in the enclosed annual report.

Strategy Three: Increasing Access to Behavior Health Services. The first of the levy behavioral health service plans to be implemented supports the Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives for Seniors (PEARLS). This program, provided throughout King County by the City of Seattle's Aging and Disability Services, is an evidence-based in-home treatment model for older, low-income adults who have chronic health conditions and experience minor depression. The levy provides funding for an additional

counselor and expands PEARLS, providing additional outreach to communities of color, veterans, and spouses of veterans.

The PEARLS counseling program provides a series of in-home counseling sessions over a period of five months, followed by three monthly follow-up phone calls. Clients learn to recognize their symptoms of depression and focus on understanding depression as unsolved problems that they can do something about. Their symptoms may include feelings of unhappiness and discouragement, a feeling that life is unfulfilling, and difficulty following healthcare providers' treatment guidelines or adopting healthy practices to manage their chronic medical conditions. Clients who have received PEARLS counseling experienced a significant reduction in symptoms of depression and, for some, the symptoms were completely eliminated.

Strategy Four: Strengthening Families at Risk. Some families experience circumstances putting them at risk of involvement in child welfare, behavioral health, or criminal justice systems. Healthy interactions between parents and children in the early months and years of life are linked to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and prevent a child's involvement in the criminal justice system. Providing support, information, education, and resources can help build healthy parent/child relationships and ensure positive outcomes for children.

One of the specific activities under this strategy in the Service Improvement Plan is an early childhood intervention and prevention activity. In the fall of 2007, Public Health staff conducted an RFP to select providers to implement this early childhood intervention and prevention activity. Four agencies were awarded funds for programs providing culturally appropriate services, training in evidence based curricula, and home visitation education and support to at-risk families. Healthy Start received funds to implement a home visitation program. This group utilizes the Parents as Teachers program, an international early childhood parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy, usually until the child reaches age five. The program serves first time high risk parents under the age of 23.

The program provides:

- Personal visits - providing age-appropriate child development information, assistance observing their child and addressing concerns, and activities to provide meaningful parent/child interactions;
- Group meetings - providing opportunities to share information about parenting issues;
- Screening - for developmental delays, health, vision or hearing problems; and
- Resource network - to help families identify and connect with needed resources.

Friends of Youth, located in Redmond, manages Healthy Start contract with other community based agencies, including Shoreline's Center for Human Services, which is featured in the enclosed annual report.

Strategy Five: Increasing the Effectiveness of Resource Management and Evaluation. Strategy Five in the Service Improvement Plan focuses a small amount of levy funds on evaluating levy program performance, increasing the use of technology to improve systems and services, and improving coordination of systems. To ensure levy funds are used wisely and most effectively, the levy evaluation efforts intend to demonstrate the impact and benefits of levy funded activities on regional problems, increase our understanding of what kinds of programs work for veterans and families in needs, and review how the levy is planned and administered in order to improve future efforts.

An outcome evaluation will focus on the investments made in human services and whether they resulted in measurable changes in the lives of veterans, homeless individuals, people with behavioral health needs, and at-risk families. Programs will be evaluated based on whether they produce the proposed outcomes for their services. These outcomes are spelled out in the Service Improvement Plan and Levy Evaluation Framework. A broad range of levy project outcomes will be evaluated.

Most of the levy funded activities have begun. The long term impacts will not be known for a few years, but evaluation efforts have started preparing reports on the current status and initial investment in the five overarching strategy areas. To show how communities have been improved, we will compare how we are doing now with the result we will see over the next few years. The evaluation team will prepare a series of preliminary reports in 2008 and 2009 to describe where we are today and to provide early implementation results.

2007 Annual Financial Status Report

The Veterans and Human Services Levy will generate more than \$13 million per year for a period of six years to support a range of housing, health and human services for people in need. The status report included in the 2007 Annual Report provides aggregate information on levy funds committed through the end of 2007.

Enclosed with this letter is an updated financial plan showing actual and projected revenue and expenditures for the veterans and human services funds for each year of the levy. There have been changes since the previous financial plan. Actual revenue has been higher than the Service Improvement Plan and earlier financial plans projected. While it is expected to be higher in future years, it is also expected to fluctuate with the interest rates and the ups and downs of local building activity. The revenue situation will be monitored and the financial plans will be updated each year.

The Honorable Julia Patterson

May 28, 2008

Page 7

Because actual revenue has been higher than projected, and is expected to be higher in future years as well, the two levy boards have been considering which activities outlined in the Service Improvement Plan should receive additional funding.

The human services levy fund is projected to have about \$135,000 in additional available revenue on an ongoing basis. The council specified in Ordinance 15406 that at least \$1.5 million be invested each year in early childhood intervention and prevention activities (Strategy 4, Strengthening Families at Risk), however, the original Appendix D provided for less than \$1.4 million per year. As a result, the Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board has recommended that the additional funding be invested in that strategy, specifically, the employment component for young parents in the Nurse Family Partnership program. Consistent with established board practice, a revised program design for that activity will shortly be posted on the levy web site for public review and comment. Additional funds are also available on a one-time basis, and rather than investing these funds into ongoing programs that may not be able to be maintained, the board has recommended using them for capital investment in homeless housing.

The veterans levy fund is projected to have about \$1.15 million in additional available revenue on an ongoing basis. The Veterans Citizens Levy Oversight Board has recommended that the funds be invested in Strategy 1, Enhancing Services for Veterans and Their Families, for a variety of targeted initiatives, including expanding outreach to underserved communities through contracts with community-based organizations (to be selected through an RFP process). A revised program design will be posted on the levy web site for public review and comment. Additional funds are also available on a one-time basis, and rather than investing these funds into ongoing programs that may not be able to be maintained, the board has recommended using them for one-time activities such as homeless veterans housing and community events or veterans "stand downs".

A revised Service Improvement Plan *Appendix D: Veterans and Human Services Levy Financial Allocation Plan* is enclosed that incorporates these changes in ongoing funding and additional one-time funds for 2008. (Additional funds available for remaining years of the levy are as yet undetermined.) Please note that Appendix D is an allocation plan, not an expenditure plan, so it does not track with the financial plans.

I am delighted to share the enclosed 2007 Veterans and Human Services Levy Annual Report and celebrate with you the progress that has been made in implementing the range of projects and services called for in the Service Improvement Plan. The individual stories in the Annual Report attest to the fact that progress is being made in improving the lives of veterans, their families and others.

