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**Subject:** 140 Organizations Strong Coalition Support for the Health Through Housing Plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 2:09:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [140 Organisations Strong Coalition Support for the Health through Housing letter to KCC 20201013.pdf](#)

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Dear Regional Policy Committee,

**We, as a coalition of currently more than 140 (and still growing in numbers) partners of community organizations, businesses, and alliances, write to offer our enthusiastic support for the *Health Through Housing* plan that you will be discussing today.**

We are grateful for King County's leadership and we are committed to a truly regional and collaborative approach to homelessness and affordable housing. We urge your collective support and focus on this evidence-based and cost-effective solution for the most vulnerable people in our region. This moves us one step closer to ending the trauma of chronic homelessness for many individuals and families and maybe the largest investment our region has ever made to solve homelessness with the only solution that works: Housing.

Attached is our final letter submitted to the King County Council on October 13<sup>th</sup> to show our enthusiastic support for the plan.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

**Patience Malaba**

Director of Government Relations and Policy (Pronouns, She/Her)

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October 13, 2020

King County Council  
1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear King County Council Chair Balducci and Councilmembers,

**We, the undersigned community organizations, businesses, and alliances, write to offer our enthusiastic support for the *Health Through Housing* proposal (Ordinance 2020-0337 & 2020-0338). We are eager to work together with you to make historic progress to eliminate chronic homelessness in our region, create homes for 2000 people, and invest in stronger communities across King County.**

***Health through Housing will protect public health, promote community safety***

Our strong shared commitment to a healthy, safe, and housed King County unites us as a broad array of businesses and workers; behavioral health care providers and stakeholders; affordable housing developers; housing and human services providers; labor unions; faith communities; and community advocates. We know that the best way to protect public health and promote community safety is to help 2000 King County residents with disabilities, who have spent too many months and years on the streets, move into stable homes.

**To improve the health of all, we must have housing for all, and focus on equity.**

The crisis of homelessness is a shared crisis, affecting us all, but it does not affect all people and communities equally. Rates of homelessness amongst Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color (BIPOC) are dramatically out of proportion to their populations in King County. And, BIPOC communities have been hit the hardest by the coronavirus pandemic, suffering higher rates of disease and death, and job loss, in part due to historic failures of our health care systems, and in part due to their over representation as essential workers who keep our economy functioning. The January 2020 Point in Time Count found at least 11,751 people who were experiencing homelessness in communities and neighborhoods all over King County on one night. Our

community's homeless service systems currently serve about 4500 households headed by people who are experiencing chronic homelessness: most are adults, but young adults and families with minor children are also among those who have lived through long times homeless, and who live with disabilities.

***Health through Housing* is strategic and timely: To achieve the greatest benefit for our region we must act together.**

- The COVID19 pandemic overlaid on the homelessness and affordable housing crises offers an unprecedented opportunity (one we would not have chosen): to invest in and create immediate emergency homes for nearly half the King County residents who experience chronic homelessness, whose household incomes are at or below 30 percent area median income (AMI) and whose homelessness is solvable, but only by scaling up our regional investment in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).
- Supportive housing is a solution with abundant evidence to back it up. All local studies and national experts agree that if we are to make progress on homelessness, we must rapidly and strategically create enough supportive housing for those who need it.
- We have a strong history of doing what is right to address homelessness in our community. King County housing and homeless service providers have led our nation in developing and demonstrating that PSH is cost-effective and works to end chronic homelessness for people with long histories of trauma, poverty, disability, and inadequate care.
- The ***Health through Housing*** plan to re-develop purchased properties to create supportive homes and create stability for people and communities struggling through the economic crisis is how we scale our regional solutions to homelessness, and shows that we can both tackle immediate needs and make lasting progress to promote public health and community safety.

**King County's path to a more equitable recovery and to better health outcomes** We must prioritize resources and investments for those who are most vulnerable. We urge your strong support for **Ordinance 2020-0337**, which implements the sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent, and **Ordinance 2020-0338** that authorizes a plan to implement the sales tax. This is a unique and critical funding source to use to address chronic homelessness because of its focus on housing and behavioral health services. This legislation would support King County residents who are

experiencing or at risk of chronic homelessness, and also bring urgently needed focus to reducing racial and ethnic disproportionalities.

We are grateful for and committed to a truly regional and collaborative approach to homelessness and affordable housing. We ask the King County Council to enact this important tool and focus on this evidence-based and cost-effective solution for the most vulnerable homeless people in our region. We are counting on you to adopt this proposal by October 15<sup>th</sup> to maximize the full collective effect of this tax, and to ensure that collection begins January 1, 2021 so we can bring as many people off the streets as quickly as possible.

As the COVID19 pandemic has demonstrated most powerfully, our health depends on the health of our neighbors. We must work together today to drive a healthy recovery tomorrow and create stronger and more equitable shared future. Now is the time to invest in ***Health through Housing*** for our whole region.

Sincerely,

ADWAS	Delridge Neighborhoods Development Assoc.
African Community Housing & Development	DESC
Ally Community Development	Domestic Abuse Women's Network
American Institute of Architects Seattle	Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH)
Barrientos RYAN	El Centro de la Raza
Beacon Development	Elizabeth Gregory Home
Bellwether Housing	Environmental Works
Bridge Housing	Equity in Education Coalition
Building Changes	Evergreen Treatment Services REACH
Business Impact NW	Expedia Group
Byrd Barr Place	Express Credit Union
Community Roots Housing	Falkin Associates
Casa Latina	Federal Home Loan Bank Des Moines
Catholic Community Services of Western WA	Filipino Community of Seattle
Catholic Housing Services	Forterra
Center for Human Services	Friends of Youth
Chief Seattle Club	GGLO
Child Care Resources	GMD Development
Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence	Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County
Consejo Counseling & Referral Service	Harborstone Credit Union
Congregations for the Homeless	Hawaii Housing Alliance
Compass Housing Alliance	Heritage Bank
Community Frameworks	Hepatitis Education Project
Community Homes, Inc.	HERO House
Crisis Connections	Homeless Rights Advocacy Project

Homestead Community Land Trust  
HomeStreet Bank  
Hopelink  
Housing Development Consortium (HDC)  
Howard S Wright Construction  
HumanGood (Beacon Communities)  
Imagine Housing  
Impact Capital  
InterIm CDA  
International Rescue Committee (IRC)  
JPMorgan Chase  
Kantor Taylor PC  
Kate's House  
KeyBank  
King County Alliance for Human Services  
King County Housing Authority (KCHA)  
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center  
Knit (formerly SH Architecture)  
LeadingAge Washington  
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children  
LifeWire  
Lotus Development Partners, LLC  
Loveridge Hunt & Co, CPA  
Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)  
Marpac Construction LLC

Mercy Housing Northwest  
Method Homes  
Mt Baker Housing Association (MBHA)  
Mother Africa  
Multi-Communities  
Multi-Service Center  
Muslim Housing Services  
Navos  
Neighborhood House  
New Hope Community Development Institute  
Nyhus  
Parkview Services  
Pagliacci Pizza  
Pike Market Senior Center and Food Bank  
Pine Street Group  
Pioneer Human Services  
Plymouth Healing Communities  
Plymouth Housing  
Project Access NW  
Public Defender Association  
Rebuilding Together Seattle  
Refugee Women's Alliance (REWA)  
Resources, Inc  
ROOTS Young Adult Shelter  
SAGE Architectural Alliance

Sage Conservation	University District Food Bank
Schemata Workshop	Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
SCIDpda (Seattle Chinatown International District PDA)	
SeaMar Community Health Centers	U.S. Bancorp Community Development Coop
Seattle Indian Health Board	Valley Cities Behavioral Health
Seattle for Everyone	Vine Maple Place
Seattle Hospitality Group	Vulcan Inc.
Seattle Housing Authority (SHA)	WA Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy
Seattle Human Services Coalition	Washington Holdings
Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness	Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Seattle Mariners	WA State Housing Finance Commission
SEED (SouthEast Effective Development)	Wild Ginger
SEIU Healthcare 1199NW	YMCA of Greater Seattle
SEIU 775	YWCA Seattle King Snohomish
SHAG	YouthCare
Skyway Solutions	
SMR Architects	
Solid Ground	
Southwest Youth and Family Services	
Symetra	
Teamsters 117	
The Mockingbird Society	
The Sophia Way	
Third Door Coalition	
United Way of King County	