

To: Marc Dones, CEO; King County Regional Homelessness Authority

cc: Peter Lynn, Chief Program Officer
Erin Bryant-Thomas, Director of Equity & Justice
Katara Jordan, Chief Ombudsperson

From: North King County Coalition on Homelessness

Date: March 14, 2022

Subject: Formal Request for Dedicated North King County Sub-Regional Planning Coordinator

The North King County Coalition on Homelessness is comprised of elected and staff representatives from each of the five North King County cities of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell and Woodinville, along with area agencies, faith communities and organizations engaged in human services, as well as those with lived experience. The Coalition works across sectors and jurisdictions in support of policies and community-based efforts to provide services, shelter and/or permanent housing options for those in North King County who are experiencing homelessness, and we are each committed to ending homelessness within our cities and in the region.

Since its inception in the spring of 2020, first as the North King County Shelter Taskforce and currently as the Coalition, we have sought to operate as a unified voice for and within North King County. Our goal has been to articulate local needs, priorities and solutions to address homelessness in North King County. We are working to jointly formulate policies and strategies that address these complex issues in an efficient and expeditious manner in order to provide increased resources and services across our region.

The KCRHA is an essential partner in this work, and we greatly appreciate the regular participation of Alexis Rinck who has provided invaluable insight and information. KCRHA plans call for regional coordinators who will help orient towards goals as articulated by the community and involve stakeholders comprised of diverse groups. We understand, however, that as Sub-Regional Planning Manager, Alexis is not just focused on North King County, but also oversees the Sub-Regional Planning Coordinators for Seattle, South King County and East King County.

Regional planning coordinators play a critical role in partnering with local stakeholders and building the infrastructure to effectively respond to the needs of people living unsheltered – yet North King County remains the only region without a dedicated KCRHA Sub-Regional Planning Coordinator.

With a population of over 158,000 and a significant population of people experiencing homelessness (most recent statistics indicate 204 sheltered and 56 unsheltered, although these are most certainly undercounts*), our Coalition members are continuously exploring opportunities to improve access to and the delivery of services and enhance outcomes for our unhoused neighbors. But in order to effectively undertake a joint and cooperative effort with the KCRHA to address these issues - and to effectively coordinate services, facilitate joint planning and program funding, and establish standards for accountability – a Sub-Regional Planning Coordinator dedicated to North King County is essential.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. We look forward to our continued partnership with KCRHA and accelerated efforts to address the myriad issues related to homelessness, including overnight and severe weather shelters, transitional and permanent supportive housing, behavioral health supports, and overall accessibility of health and human services.

**References: OFM Population Estimates, April 2021; 2020 All Home Count Us In Report*

North King County Coalition on Homelessness Members

Government Partners:

City of Bothell
City of Kenmore
City of Lake Forest Park
City of Shoreline
City of Woodinville

Non-Governmental Partners:

Bothell United Methodist Church
Health Care for the Homeless
Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness
Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness
Lived Experience Coalition
North Sound Radar Program
North Urban Human Services Alliance
Ronald United Methodist Church