Re: Severe Weather Shelter

From: Beth Lazar <elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org>
To: Helen Howell <helen.howell@kcrha.org>, "Washington, Tiffany" <tiffany.washington@seattle.gov>, Anne Burkland <anne.burkland@kcrha.org>, "Moore, Cathy" <cathy.moore@seattle.gov>, "Kim, Tanya" <tanya.kim@seattle.gov>
Cc: "Garrity, Lindsey (MOS)" <lindsey.garrity2@seattle.gov>, "Baxter, Lori (MOS)" <lori.baxter2@seattle.gov>, "Klaeysen, Chris" <chris.klaeysen@seattle.gov>, "Nolte, Dan (MOS)" <dan.nolte@seattle.gov>
Date: Fri, 12 Jan 2024 20:14:54 -0800

CAUTION: External Email

Good evening.

I want to share a few updates as of this afternoon. Tonight, we were able to increase capacity at Exhibition Hall to 200 beds, with support from our partners at HSD and The Salvation Army.

In addition, we confirmed that Sound Transit is opening up Union Station from 7a-6p as a warming center starting tomorrow morning through Tuesday. They'll have bathrooms, and the building will be open for people who need to get out of the cold.

KCRHA monitors bed capacity daily and works to bring on more resources as they become available. We plan to continue these actions daily throughout the weekend.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our unhoused neighbors.

Beth

Beth Lazar, MSW | She/Her

Deputy Chief Program Officer

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Email: elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org

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Twitter | Facebook | LinkedIn | Instagram

Email communications with KCRHA employees are public records and may be subject to disclosure.

From: Helen Howell <helen.howell@kcrha.org>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 7:54:31 PM
To: Tiffany Washington <tiffany.washington@seattle.gov>; Beth Lazar <elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org>; Beth Lazar <elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org>; Anne Burkland <anne.burkland@kcrha.org>; Moore, Cathy <Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Tanya Kim <tanya.kim@seattle.gov>
Cc: Garrity, Lindsey (MOS) <lindsey.garrity2@seattle.gov>; Baxter, Lori (MOS)

<Lori.Baxter2@seattle.gov>; Klaeysen, Chris <Chris.Klaeysen@seattle.gov>; Nolte, Dan (MOS) <Dan.Nolte@seattle.gov>
Subject: Re: Severe Weather Shelter

Message received.

Have a good night,

Helen

Helen Howell | She/Her
Interim CEO
King County Regional Homelessness Authority
Email: helen.howell@kcrha.org
Twitter | Facebook | LinkedIn | Instagram

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From: Washington, Tiffany <Tiffany.Washington@seattle.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 7:38 PM
To: Beth Lazar <elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org>; Beth Lazar <elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org>; Helen Howell <helen.howell@kcrha.org>; Anne Burkland <anne.burkland@kcrha.org>; Moore, Cathy <Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Tanya Kim <tanya.kim@seattle.gov>
Cc: Garrity, Lindsey (MOS) <lindsey.garrity2@seattle.gov>; Baxter, Lori (MOS) <Lori.Baxter2@seattle.gov>; Klaeysen, Chris <Chris.Klaeysen@seattle.gov>; Nolte, Dan (MOS) <Dan.Nolte@seattle.gov>
Subject: Severe Weather Shelter

Good evening KCRHA staff. I would like to ensure that we are all on the same page regarding Severe Weather Shelter as there seems to be significant confusion on how it works. Prior to jumping in I want to be 100% clear of the City's expectations. NO ONE should be left outside in the freezing cold because of funding! In the middle of an emergency, you do not get caught up in budget, you help people. Below is a high-level overview of how the process works.

- Each morning KCRHA staff are to meet and discuss the needs for the day. During this time, you should discuss facility needs based on the day before.
- If the severe weather shelters from the previous night were at full capacity, KCRHA should request another City facility to open via HSD.

- For example: City Hall shelter was open last night and sheltered 45 people which is full capacity. As a result, KCRHA asked the City to open the Exhibition Hall at the Seattle Center for 120 people. That request was accepted.

- If the Exhibition Hall reaches capacity, the City will provide another facility to open (ex: Community Centers).

- The response to Sharon Lee's email was misleading. She was offering to open 30 beds at a cost of $9k. The answer from KCRHA should have been "not at this time." There is no reason to open a facility that cost money when we open City Facilities for free.

Unfortunately, the narrative being spread is that you all only have capacity for 150 beds. As a result, we have received question from the media, council members, and the public who are worried that people will be left outside in freezing temperatures. I have added CM Moore who chairs the committee that oversees homelessness. I explained to her how the system has worked for decades and assured her that no one who wants to come inside will be left outside. HSD operated severe weather for decades and always had a space for those wanting to come inside. This is my expectation for KCRHA.

In addition, CM Moore was told that the current shelter hours are not conducive for the temperatures. My expectation is that KCRHA staff communicate that to HSD and ask for modified hours. If KCRHA does not ask for what they need, we assume all is well.

@Helen Howell and @Kim, Tanya please respond to this email letting me and CM Moore know that you understand the expectations and will adhere to them.

Thank you,

Tiffany Washington
Deputy Mayor (She/Her/Hers)
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