FW: We need more winter shelter this weekend

From: "Washington, Tiffany" <tiffany.washington@seattle.gov>
To: LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>, "Harrell, Bruce" <bruce.harrell@seattle.gov>
Cc: "Racca, Jeremy" <jeremy.racca@seattle.gov>, "Housen, Jamie" <jamie.housen@seattle.gov>, "Nolte, Dan (MOS)" <dan.nolte@seattle.gov>, "Garrity, Lindsey (MOS)" <lindsey.garrity2@seattle.gov>, "Baxter, Lori (MOS)" <lori.baxter2@seattle.gov>, "Emery, Adiam" <adiam.emery@seattle.gov>, "Wong, Greg" <greg.wong@seattle.gov>, "Burgess, Tim" <tim.burgess@seattle.gov>
Bcc: "Moore, Cathy" <cathy.moore@seattle.gov>
Date: Fri, 12 Jan 2024 18:58:51 -0800

Good evening, Council members. Unfortunately, the email strand below is very misleading. I can assure you that NO ONE will be left out in the elements during severe weather if they want to come inside.
The City of Seattle has been doing severe weather shelter for decades and has always been able to house all the people who need help. The process is as follows:

1. During a severe weather event the EOC is activated daily. Each morning department staff and KCRHA leads join the meeting to discuss the needs and conditions for the day.

2. If the severe weather shelters from the previous night were at full capacity, KCRHA requests another City facility to open for that night.

3. 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 for tonight through the 18th.

4. If the Exhibition Hall becomes reaches capacity, the City will provide another facility to open (Community Centers).

Sharon Lee 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. If you have any questions, please call, or email me. Rest assured, no one will be left outside in the elements.

Thank you.

Tiffany Washington
Deputy Mayor (She/Her/Hers)
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-----Original Message-----
From: Sharon Lee <sharonl@lihi.org>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 6:23 PM
To: Beth Lazar <elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org>; Helen Howell <helen.howell@kcrha.org>
Cc: Ralph Neis <rneis@lihi.org>; jon.grant@lihi.org; LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Washington, Tiffany <Tiffany.Washington@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Kim, Tanya <Tanya.Kim@seattle.gov>; William Towey <william@lakecitypartners.org>; Angela Mercado <angela@uheightscenter.org>; Sally Bagshaw <sally1.bagshaw@gmail.com>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>
Subject: We need more winter shelter this weekend

CAUTION: External Email

Hi Helen and Beth, we regret to hear your response below to our proposal to open up 30 beds 24/7 for vulnerable people this weekend. Our Lakefront facility is located in north Seattle.

I know KCRHA has formulated a budget for 2024. It is surprising that at the start of the year in January that you have already run out of funds for severe weather response —especially during a period of extremely low temperatures. The level of cold and chill is atypical of Seattle and people will likely freeze outside and even die of exposure.

What is your budget for severe weather? Why can you not allocate some funds from elsewhere?

We ask that you reconsider and open up more facilities tonight and this weekend. I can be reached at 206-571-5730.

Sharon

Sharon H. Lee
Executive Director
Low Income Housing Institute
1253 S. Jackson St. Suite A
Seattle, WA 98144

206-443-9935 ext. 1031
206-443-9851 fax

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> On Jan 12, 2024, at 2:12 PM, Beth Lazar <elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org> wrote:
> Hi Sharon,
>
> Thank you for emailing this information about Lakefront Community House. It is with regret that KCRHA cannot funds the Lakefront Community House for severe weather activation at this time.
>
> Please know the KCRHA is actively advocating for increased funds to fill gaps in severe weather activations. Also, you may be aware, we were able to open City Hall yesterday (only) to help increase bed capacity in Seattle before Exhibition Hall opens tonight. Exhibition hall will significantly increase bed capacity within Seattle this evening through the 16th.
>
> I am open to continued conversations as we continue to improve our severe weather resources in

the community. Thank you for all you do for our unhoused neighbors every day.
>
> Beth
>
> Beth Lazar, MSW | She/Her
> Deputy Chief Program Officer
> King County Regional Homelessness Authority
> Email: elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org
> Mobile: 206-795-4022
> Twitter | Facebook | LinkedIn | Instagram
>
> Email communications with KCRHA employees are public records and may be subject to disclosure.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Sharon Lee <sharonl@lihi.org>
> Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 2:13 PM
> To: Beth Lazar <elizabeth.lazar@kcrha.org>
> Cc: Ralph Neis <rneis@lihi.org>; jon.grant@lihi.org
> Subject: Lakefront
>
> [You don't often get email from sharonl@lihi.org. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]
>
> Hi Beth, we can open Lakefront Community House in north Seattle for 24/7 stays including meals for 4 nights for $9,127. We can shelter 30 people. I am at 206-571-5730. Let me know. Thanks.
>
> Sharon
>
> Sharon H. Lee
> Executive Director
> Low Income Housing Institute
> 1253 S. Jackson St. Suite A
> Seattle, WA 98144
>
> 206-443-9935 ext. 1031
> 206-443-9851 fax
>
> Celebrating 30 Years
> Housing is a human right!
> Need Affordable Housing? Available units posted weekly at:
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