

DATE: July 23, 2018

TO: Mayor Chelminiak and Fellow Bellevue Councilmembers

FROM: Jennifer S. Robertson, Councilmember

RE: Council Business for July 23, 2018 City Council Agenda: Converting CFH Winter Homeless Shelter to Year-Round Operations

The current CFH winter shelter and day center are located on City-owned property at Lincoln Center on 116th Street NE. We have been discussing for some time the need for having the winter shelter and day center convert to year-round operations, even if it is not in its permanent location. The challenge is that the building must be improved to allow such year-round operations and this will be costly. Given that there is not yet identified a single location for the permanent shelter, nor is there plans, permits, or funding assembled for such project, it is likely that the emergency shelter will remain at Lincoln Center for at least 3 years. The Lincoln Center property is not needed for alternative uses until after light rail's construction is completed in 2023 and the Grand Connection projects significantly more evolved than it is today. Therefore, allowing CFH to stay at the Lincoln Center property poses no hardship for the City, addresses the current urgent need for a year-round shelter, and provides stability for CFH operations as the permanent location for a shelter is conceptualized, planned, funded, permitted, and constructed.

To that end, I would like to ask the City Manager to work with CFH to enable them to provide year-round services at Lincoln Center, including negotiating an extension of the lease agreement, assisting CFH in determining the most cost effective path to complying with city codes, assisting CFH in determining whether grants are available from the city or other governmental organizations to pay for some or all of the costs of upgrading the building, provide assistance with grant applications and advocacy for grants from other governmental organizations, and development of a collaborative schedule, with a goal of commencing construction on the renovations not later than May 1, 2019 such that the shelter can be open for year-round operations not later than the end of 2019. A budget estimate should be brought forward in the current budget cycle to include any impacts of the updated permitting process.

The benefits to this include making sure that the shelter residents have some place to go 365 days per year, addressing our current gap in facilities for a portion of every year, and providing continuity of services to those experiencing homeless and also include:

- Year-round operation will allow CFH to improve operations because they won't have to lay off most of their staff every May 1.
- The continuity in operations should lead to better data/information about their operations, services, impacts that will be useful in planning a permanent shelter.

I would like to have consensus to direct the City Manager to work with CFH to enable them to provide year-round services at Lincoln Center or another similar location (but excluding any of the other permanent sites under study), including the following steps as applicable to the site:

- 1) Negotiating an extension of the lease agreement;
- 2) Assisting CFH in determining the most cost effective path to complying with city codes;
- 3) Assisting CFH in determining whether grants are available from the city or other governmental organizations to pay for some or all of the costs of operating a year round shelter;
- 4) Providing assistance with grant applications and advocacy for grants from other governmental organizations;
- 5) Development of a collaborative schedule with the goal of ensuring that the shelter can be open for year-round operations not later than the end of 2019; and
- 6) Bringing forward a budget estimate for implementation should be included as a proposal for the 2019-2020 City budget.