

April 3, 2017

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Project

STAFF CONTACTS

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POLICY ISSUES

The City Council Vision Priorities direct the City to work with regional partners to “establish an eastside permanent winter homeless shelter to be ready for the winter of 2018/19.” This priority echoes the Council's adopted 2014 Diversity Advantage plan, which includes an action item “supporting the establishment of a year-round homeless shelter on the Eastside.”

These directive actions are consistent with Comprehensive Plan policies adopted in 2015 including:

- HO-35: Support regional efforts to prevent homelessness, and make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time when it occurs. Provide a range of affordable housing options and support efforts to move homeless persons and families to long-term financial independence.
- HO-36: Collaborate with other jurisdictions and social service organizations to assure availability of emergency shelter and day centers that address homelessness.
- HS-14: Support agencies locating human service facilities in Bellevue and, where appropriate, encourage efficiencies through agency collocation and collaboration.
- HS-18: Support an intentional local community response to homelessness with housing and supportive services provided to families, youth and single adults.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



No action is requested at tonight's session. Staff will present a summary of the Due Diligence report, and provide an opportunity for Council discussion. Continued discussion of the project and the status of the County Letter of Agreement on the Eastgate site will return for Council direction later this month.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On August 1, 2016, the City Council directed the City Manager to enter into a non-binding Joint Letter of Agreement with King County (Attachment A) to further evaluate siting a men's shelter and supportive housing facility on property owned by King County adjacent to the Eastgate Public Health clinic and the Eastgate Park and Ride, located at 14350 SE Eastgate Way, Bellevue WA 98007. The direction provided by Council in August allowed City and County staff, as well as partner agencies Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) and Imagine Housing, to continue to work together to perform due diligence on the feasibility of this project (Attachment B). If implemented, the project could meet long-standing goals and priorities of the City. These goals and priorities include (1) meeting a need for both a long-term emergency shelter (which the City has been supporting at a variety of locations since 2008); (2) providing affordable service-enriched housing to add to Bellevue's existing stock of affordable housing projects; and (3) aiding in transitioning people out of homelessness to stable housing.

In the Joint Letter of Agreement, the City committed to conducting public outreach on the proposed project. Outreach was conducted through a number of means, by inviting written comments and questions, meeting with neighboring property owners and community groups and through two community meetings hosted in the neighborhood in September and October 2016. Information on the outreach is included in Attachment B.

At a second study session on November 28, 2016, the Council heard about homelessness trend data in Bellevue and the Eastside and Bellevue's approach, in collaboration with regional partners, to invest in a network of services to prevent homelessness while also making it "rare, brief and one-time." An initial report was given on public feedback collected by the City after the two community meetings. CFH and Imagine Housing shared the histories of their respective organizations. Their staff described how operations of the shelter, day services center, and housing could be managed. The presentation concluded with information and data from Bellevue Police on safety and security at the prior interim CFH shelter location in BelRed. This data incorporated comparisons to the City as a whole and the proposed location in Eastgate.

As part of the next steps discussed with the Council at the November Study Session, staff committed to returning with additional due diligence information. That additional information is the subject of this third study session presentation and is intended to inform the City's next steps as outlined in the Letter of Agreement. New information on the conceptual design of the project will be shared, along with highlights of research around best practices, case studies of similarly designed and managed projects, and an update on public comments received to date. Ample time will be reserved for questions and discussion by the Council.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

A. Joint Letter of Agreement, dated August 2, 2016

B. Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Project Due Diligence Report

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

- A. Additional background on local and regional response to homelessness
- B. Public Meetings and Comments Compilation
- C. Eastside Resident Committee submittal
- D. Petition: Residents against Eastside men's shelter

All documents above are available online at: www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm