

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

November 28, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson, Robinson, Slatter, and Wallace

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

At 6:03 p.m., Deputy Mayor Chelminiak called the meeting to order and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss one item of property disposition.

The meeting resumed at 6:40 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 7-0.

3. Oral Communications

- (a) Larry Noel spoke in opposition to the proposed low-barrier men's shelter. He noted that he worked in Bellevue schools for 21 years and in Issaquah schools for the remainder of his career. He supports the need and the work to help the homeless, but he is protective of the youth who use Robinswood Park and the students attending Bellevue College. He is concerned that the shelter will not properly screen its residents for the use of drugs and alcohol and for criminal records. He said shelter residents will not be required to have proper identification.
- (b) Safaa Abdellatt, a senior at Redmond High School, said she grew up in the United States and in Egypt. She participates in American Immigration Forums, a student group that encourages immigration-related conversations within the community. She thanked the

City of Bellevue for its resources serving youth and individuals of diverse backgrounds. She encouraged the Council to support the development of a multicultural center that would serve the Eastside.

- (c) Marcia Edwards, speaking on behalf of the Wilburton Community Association, expressed concerns about the interim men's homeless shelter in their neighborhood including the lack of notification to residents, personal safety, property crimes, loitering, and littering. She said a recent neighborhood poll indicated that 86 percent of 126 Wilburton residents oppose the shelter. She asked the City to secure a permanent location outside of the Wilburton community. She said the presence of a low-barrier, interim shelter in the Wilburton commercial area is inconsistent with the planned development in the community (i.e., Grand Connection, Eastside Rail Corridor trail, new elementary school, two light rail stations, and new retail/residential development). Ms. Edwards submitted her comments in writing.
- (d) Nancy Bent, a resident of the College Hill Skyridge neighborhood, spoke in support of the proposed Eastgate men's homeless shelter. Her church is a member of Congregations for the Homeless, and she and her family have served dinners and volunteered at the existing shelter. She recently visited Bellevue's winter shelter, which is slightly different than the program at her church. She said men are logged in at the entrance, food service is well organized, and a staff member manages the data entry to keep records up to date. She spoke in favor of providing the opportunity for homeless individuals to return to a life with a job and a place to live. She thanked the Council for its leadership on this issue.
- (e) Grant Degginger, a resident of the Lakemont/Cougar Mountain neighborhood, said his synagogue is a founding member of Congregations for the Homeless. He thanked the Council for its coordinated, long-term response to address homelessness. He expressed support for the proposed Eastgate homeless shelter and permanent supportive housing facility. He recalled working several years ago, as a former Bellevue Mayor, on regulations to govern Tent City 4. Mr. Degginger said homelessness on the Eastside is not a problem that can be wished away. He noted that the men's shelter is an important part of a collaborative effort that leverages the resources of a number of agencies. He said the Eastgate location is not adjacent to a single-family neighborhood and it will be collocated with social services. Mr. Degginger said the City is skilled in meeting the needs and addressing the concerns of everyone in the community.
- (f) Jack Morrison, a resident of the Forest Ridge neighborhood, spoke in support of the Eastgate men's homeless shelter and permanent housing. He was asked by the leadership of Aldersgate United Methodist Church to communicate their endorsement of the shelter and adjacent services. He believes the City has conducted a thorough analysis of the placement of the shelter and developed a solid plan for added security. He is pleased to see Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing as collaborative partners. He thanked the Council for addressing the issue and said it is important to be responsible for those who are unable to provide for themselves.
- (g) Avin Litov spoke opposed to the proposed Eastgate location for the low-barrier men's homeless shelter. He is a student at Bellevue College and would feel less safe at the college. He noted that most other shelters, including Tent City and the Union Gospel

Mission, turn away individuals who are felons, sex offenders, or currently involved in dealing or using drugs. Mr. Litov expressed concern that those individuals will end up in the low-barrier shelter. He has been unable to identify any low-barrier shelters in Seattle. He is not opposed to low-barrier shelters but feels it is not appropriate next to an open college campus, high school, youth dance studio, and transit center. He already does not feel safe at transit centers and noted that he was assaulted outside of a bus tunnel in Seattle. He said there is a high level of drug dealing and use at 3rd Avenue and Pine Street in Seattle, which is a central transit location. Mr. Litov said he worked with the homeless for 10 years and he knows individuals who are currently homeless and looking for a place to live.

- (h) Lara Litov spoke against the proposed low-barrier men's shelter in the Eastgate area and expressed concern that there will be more theft and crime. She suggested that a better location would be away from transit centers and near medical and social services. She said data indicates that two-thirds of chronically homeless individuals are substance abusers. Ms. Litov said it is inappropriate to place the shelter near Bellevue College and to expose students to the related risks. Ms. Litov asked the Council to establish a task force representing a cross-section of Bellevue residents and professionals to research the community's needs and identify better options. She asked the Council to set aside funds to hold organizations and City partners accountable and to compile outcome data. Ms. Litov submitted copies of a list of web links for more information on the siting and impacts of homeless shelters.
- (i) Michelle Wanamaker asked the Council to approve the Eastgate and I-90 Land Use and Transportation project on the evening's agenda. She thanked the Council for referring the plan to the Transportation Commission. She noted her correspondence earlier in the day that included requests for several changes to the proposal. Since that time, staff has explained to her that all of her suggestions are already in the plan. Ms. Wanamaker referenced the third bullet in the draft scope of work statement and suggested that a future, more in-depth analysis should study traffic impacts along Eastgate Way from 139th Avenue SE to the transit center.
- (j) Jennifer O'Neal spoke regarding the Chinese Information and Service Center's Cultural Navigator Program and thanked the City for its funding. She said there was a comment in response to their application that the agency did not have sufficiently diversified funding sources. Over the past year, working 15 hours per week, Ms. O'Neal said she has achieved 40 percent more funding than the previous year. New supporters include the City of Issaquah and the City of Sammamish. The City of Redmond nearly doubled its contribution, and the Center received a grant from United Way. The Center is also partnering with the Indian Association of Western Washington to conduct outreach to immigrant-owned and -operated restaurants and businesses on the Eastside to identify low wage adult workers above age 50 who do not speak English and are vulnerable to homelessness. Ms. O'Neal said she speaks fluent Chinese, and additional partners speak a number of languages.

4. Study Session

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

Mayor Stokes said he included a proposal for consideration in tonight's packet regarding the Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment presented to the Council in September. The LUCA is the result of work by the Council, Planning Commission, and a Citizens Advisory Committee in 2009-2010. He noted that he served on the CAC as a member of the Parks and Community Services Board at that time.

Mayor Stokes proposed directing the Transportation Commission to examine the 150th Avenue SE corridor to identify cost-effective improvements that could be accomplished in the near- to mid-term, possibly using a portion of the Neighborhood Transportation Safety and Connectivity levy recently approved by the voters. He suggested that the result of the Commission's review be brought back to the Council in February, to be used to inform the Council's decision before the adoption of the Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment. Mayor Stokes requested Council concurrence to direct the City Manager and staff to develop and present the traffic analysis to the Transportation Commission in January, and to finalize capacity improvement proposals for submittal to the Council in February.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak expressed support for the proposal, noting that the election will be certified on November 29. He does not want to give the Transportation Commission the impression that the Council is asking the Commission to prioritize the use of levy funds. He said the section of 150th Avenue SE to be studied is primarily a commercial corridor. He said levy funds should not be used to upzone an area. He wants to ensure that the Council makes the decisions about levy expenditures. He reiterated his support of the Mayor's proposal.

Councilmember Robertson spoke in support of the proposal, noting that 150th Avenue SE is a major neighborhood connection. She recalled that she was the Council liaison to the Eastgate Land Use and Transportation Study CAC. She said the study including looking at how land use and transportation activities will evolve together, and it is important to analyze the transportation improvements needed to support land uses. She noted comments in Ms. Wanamaker's letter about Park and Ride lot impacts and questioned whether the Transportation Commission will study those impacts.

Transportation Director Dave Berg said staff's plan is to provide information to the Transportation Commission and the Council regarding potential near-term solutions along the 150th Avenue SE corridor, followed by a later, broader geographic study to identify long-term solutions.

Councilmember Lee questioned why the City does not study transportation needs for the broader Eastgate area now. Mr. Berg said the initial work can be completed with City staff within the existing transportation model. However, a more complex model was used for the Eastgate Land Use and Transportation Study and extensive work would be required to complete an update. He said staff proposes addressing 150th Avenue SE in the near term before a broader study later in 2017. Councilmember Lee said he would like the work to proceed as soon as feasible.

Councilmember Robinson thanked staff for taking the issue to the Transportation Commission, which provides the opportunity for greater public involvement and a transparent process.

Councilmember Slatter noted her support for the Mayor's proposal.

- Councilmember Robertson moved to direct the Transportation Commission to complete the review of the Eastgate 150th Avenue SE corridor, as described in the memorandum and attached draft scope of work provided in the meeting packet, and to return to the Council in February with a recommendation. Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

(b) Scheduled Visit by King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci

Mayor Stokes welcomed King County Councilmember Balducci, former Bellevue Mayor, to provide an update on County-related activities that affect Bellevue.

Councilmember Balducci noted that the Board of Supervisors for the Flood Control District includes all of the King County Councilmembers. The District is moving forward with the Willowmoor project through an interlocal agreement with the City of Redmond. She noted that she voted against an increase in the property tax for the District because it is currently well funded.

Ms. Balducci said the County Council is working on the Metro Connects Long Range Bus Service Plan, a 25-year plan providing 26 new Rapid Ride lines and other investments. The Council approved the appointment of the new Metro Executive Director earlier in the day.

Ms. Balducci said the County budget includes \$7 million to advance the next phases of the Eastside Rail Corridor project, and the Governor is requesting \$5 million for the project as well.

Ms. Balducci said the County began the year with a \$50 million deficit in the General Fund. An increase in sales tax revenue due to construction activity helps to address that deficit, as does the adoption of a right-of-way (ROW) rental fee for utilities. The County Council restored reductions to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, public defenders and courts. She noted that approximately 75 percent of the General Fund is allocated to criminal justice functions. She said the County is unable to fund its work education release program.

The County added 300,000 service hours to the bus system and funding for alternative bus lines. The County budget provides funding to allow human service agencies to reduce their 20-percent match for bus tickets to a 10-percent match, which will allow the agencies to serve more clients. The County budget adds \$2.5 million to road services for unincorporated areas, \$5.9 million for homeless sheltering and transitional services, and \$1 million for shelter partnerships outside of Seattle.

Ms. Balducci said car rental tax revenues can be used only to repay the debt related to the Kingdome, which was fulfilled, or for youth and amateur sports. As a result, a significant amount of money will be available for youth sports, including sports and recreation scholarships for youth and senior adults. The County identified \$2 million for a potential aquatics center in Bellevue, Redmond or Kirkland.

Ms. Balducci said she was able to win support for funding to upgrade the I-90 bike trail and lid park across Mercer Island, as well as \$50,000 to complete items for the Bellevue Youth Theatre.

County Councilmember Balducci spoke about the challenges associated with solid waste services including transfer station capacity and the future of the Cedar Hills Landfill. She said she is advocating for King County to adopt a plan. She said if a new northeast County transfer station is needed, the estimated cost is a minimum of \$100 million.

She commented on Bellevue's proposed homeless shelter on King County property in the Eastgate area. She understands the challenge and knows that the Council will come to the right result. She said tent city and existing shelters in Bellevue have been able to effectively work with the community. Regarding the issue of restrictions on shelter occupants, Ms. Balducci said there are potential HUD rules that might guide agencies in the direction of providing low-barrier shelters. She said low-barrier shelters exist in Seattle. However, she acknowledged there may need to be some targeted restrictions and ways to manage occupants of the shelter. She said it is important to have a common definition of low-barrier shelters.

Councilmember Robertson thanked Ms. Balducci for the update. She is pleased that the Willowmoor project is moving forward and that funding has been provided for an aquatics center. She asked that the aquatics center include a competition 50-meter swimming pool. She asked that the County not eliminate any transfer station options. Ms. Robertson noted that Ms. Balducci is a new member of the King County E911 Strategic Planning Committee and said she is working as a Bellevue representative in that effort.

Councilmember Robinson expressed appreciation for the Willowmoor project option selected by King County. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Balducci said the County has transit-oriented development (TOD) funds to be applied to the purchase of the Highland Village affordable housing complex. Ms. Balducci thanked the City of Bellevue for their partnership in that effort.

Councilmember Slatter thanked Ms. Balducci for the comprehensive report. Ms. Slatter thanked the County Council for its support of the Eastside Rail Corridor. Responding to Ms. Slatter, Ms. Balducci said the County budget provides funding for alternative transit services, which are flexible, tailored services for areas that are not easily served. Additional money for electric buses is available as well. Ms. Slatter asked Ms. Balducci to share the County's data on homeless shelters with the City.

Ms. Slatter expressed support for the aquatics center and sports scholarships. She encouraged the continued expansion of regional partnerships, including public-private projects.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said it would be helpful if the County could find a new location for the work education release program. He expressed support for the Metro Connects program and services, and thanked Ms. Balducci for her comments on homelessness. He supports the use of the car rental tax for sports programs and scholarships.

Mayor Stokes said the City will conduct a thorough study of solid waste services to determine future plans beyond the term of the current interlocal agreement. He said he appreciates the Willowmoor project, noting that he serves on the Flood Control District Advisory Committee

and the Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA-8) Salmon Recovery Council. Mayor Stokes said he is pleased with the funding for the Flood Control District. However, he noted the need for staffing. County Councilmember Balducci said the District budget adds eight new positions to move projects forward.

Councilmember Lee commended Councilmember Balducci's accomplishments and hard work during her first year on the County Council. He looks forward to continued collaboration and appreciates Ms. Balducci's understanding of Bellevue issues, including the homeless shelter.

Councilmember Slatter questioned the potential for providing ORCA transit cards to summer school students. Ms. Balducci said she would look into that issue.

At 8:03 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared a brief recess.

The meeting resumed at 8:14 p.m.

(c) Bellevue Essentials Class Synopsis

[Information provided in the meeting packet.]

(d) Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Projects

Mayor Stokes noted ongoing discussions regarding the Eastside men's shelter and supportive housing.

City Manager Brad Miyake said the purpose of the agenda item is to provide an informational update. No formal Council direction is requested. He said the proposed homeless shelter has received a significant amount of public comment, both in favor and opposed to the project. The Council requested this update, as well as more detailed reports to the Council in early 2017.

Kate Berens, Deputy City Manager, introduced Camron Parker, Project Manager, and Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager. She noted that the presentation is available on the City's web site. She said homelessness has increased in Bellevue and on the Eastside. Eastside shelters served 1,200 homeless individuals last year, including 78 men in the year-round shelter and 571 men in the winter shelter. The 2016 One Night County identified 245 individuals sleeping outside, and there are 252 children enrolled in the Bellevue School District's homeless student program.

Bellevue Police and Park Rangers report an average of 10 unpermitted encampments in open space or the public ROW, as well as individuals living in vehicles. Ms. Berens said a cross-departmental staff group meets regularly to share information and develop best practices for responding to the issue. She presented a map depicting shelters, camps, and areas with vehicular camping and panhandling.

Ms. Berens said support and intervention tools in Bellevue in response to homelessness include outreach, support services, facilities, and enforcement. The services are provided by a number of entities.

Ms. Berens said the City recently increased funding to provide a full-time outreach staff person to work with individuals and connect them to services. She noted that the function of addressing crises often falls to first responders. The Fire Cares program allows the City to dispatch more appropriate resources to intervene in crisis situations that do not require a response by Police and Fire personnel. The Police Department works with the mobile crisis team to house a program in City Hall that provides a quicker response to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

Ms. Berens said the City Council is addressing policy issues related to homelessness, and the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations prioritize the demand for services to assist the homeless. She highlighted a list of homeless housing in Bellevue provided by Congregations for the Homeless, The Sophia Way at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Catholic Community Services, and Hopelink.

Ms. Berens said the City began funding a winter shelter in partnership with other entities in 2008. The Council has addressed homeless through its Vision priorities, funding to ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing), 2015 Interest Statement on Homelessness, 2015 updated Comprehensive Plan policies, 2016-2017 Vision priorities, and the 2016 Letter of Agreement with King County.

Mr. McCormick Huentelman described the City's public outreach to date including news releases, social media, articles in *It's Your City* and neighborhood news sources, immediate outreach to surrounding businesses and residents, 14 stakeholder briefings, and two community meetings. He said the public input is thoughtful, constructive, and respectful and should be listened to and considered.

Mr. McCormick Huentelman said that, of 320 email submissions regarding the proposed Eastgate project, approximately 70 percent are favorable, 20 percent are opposed, and 10 percent have requested more information.

He said that those in the community who are opposed to the proposed Eastgate shelter are not opposed to helping the homeless, but would prefer a different location. They recognize the need to address the problem and to coordinate shelter housing with support services, and are favorable regarding the experience of Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing. However, they have concerns about the proximity of the site to residential areas, child care centers, and schools, including Bellevue College; crime and public safety; the implications of a low-barrier shelter; and the initial public process.

Ms. Berens introduced Steve Roberts and David Bowling from Congregations for the Homeless.

Mr. Roberts spoke about the history of the organization since 1993 and the multiple paths to independent housing (i.e., emergency shelter and day center, rotating shelter in local congregations, and subsidized supportive housing). The proposed men's shelter and supportive housing program includes 100 beds in the emergency shelter, day center and cafeteria, and complementary services (i.e., medical and dental, case management, mental health services, employment support, addiction recovery, legal assistance, housing placement, and public assistance benefits enrollment).

Mr. Roberts said the program is similar to what the organization will be operating at the Lincoln Center in the near future. For the proposed Eastgate location, Imagine Housing will provide 50 permanent affordable housing units.

Mr. Bowling said that, of the 571 men served in the 2015-2016 winter shelter, 54 percent were Bellevue residents and 34 percent were residents of other Eastside cities. Of those, 75 percent were between the ages of 25 and 55, 10 percent have a military background, and 29 percent self-report a disability. The residents were 66 percent Caucasian, 22 percent African-American, and 8 percent Asian. Residents include 10 percent who also self-identified as Hispanic. The men have typically lost a support network to help them through hard times, and churches and human services agencies provide that support network. He said the goals of Congregations for the Homeless is to reconnect individuals to themselves, their families, and the wider community.

Mr. Bowling said the purpose of the shelter is life safety, stability, and transformation. He described the intake process, which includes a discussion about the shelter's rules. Entry requirements include complying with laws and not being a danger to others. Weapons, drugs and alcohol are not allowed.

Mr. Bowling said there are additional steps in dealing with sex offenders, including compliance with the registration required by law. He said approximately one percent of individuals accessing the shelter are registered sex offenders.

Mayor Stokes suggested posting the intake form online for the public.

Mr. Bowling said Congregations for the Homeless partners with the Police, neighbors, and businesses to ensure that the shelter program works for everyone. Mr. Roberts said the shelter provides dinner, case management appointments, breakfast, a day center, and referrals to other services. If there are behavioral issues with an individual, attempts are made to help him through the night and refer him to the appropriate services the next day.

With regard to safety and security, Mr. Bowling said they work with the community surrounding shelters to discuss concerns and develop rules. Staff are trained in de-escalation, companioning, motivational interviewing, and trauma-informed care to build authentic relationships with the men. He said when the men are treated with respect and feel empowered, they respect and feel connected to the community. He said Congregations for the Homeless works to ensure a safe environment within and outside of the shelters. No one is turned away from the shelter, unless medical care is needed or the behavior warrants calling the Police.

Mr. Roberts reiterated that the primary purpose of the shelter is life safety. He said performance measures will be developed for the new facility as the program is developed. He noted that 40-50 percent of winter shelter residents transition to the year-round rotating shelter, and 60 percent of individuals in the rotating shelter move into permanent housing. He said the latter is the highest performance outcome in King County. The new facility will be designed to increase engagement with the men as well as the connection to human services in the Eastgate area. The goal of that program is to move men to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

Mr. Bowling invited the Council and public to visit the shelter at Lincoln Center.

Sibyl Glasby, Imagine Housing, thanked the community for coming together to address a difficult challenge. Imagine Housing was established 29 years ago by volunteers from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue. The organization has created 13 communities in six Eastside cities and provides housing for more than 1,200 residents. Ms. Glasby said approximately 30 percent of the residents have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. The communities are professionally managed and provide permanent housing. She highlighted recent developments: Velocity at the South Kirkland Park and Ride, Andrew's Glen in Bellevue, and Francis Village in Kirkland. A number of units at the latter two properties are designated specifically for veterans.

Ms. Glasby noted programs in other cities that are being used as models for the Eastside facility.

Rachel Mathison, Imagine Housing, presented a drawing depicting the preliminary vision for the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing. She said the large windows on the lower floors are intended to symbolize light and hope for the future. The project includes case management focused on housing stability, and a primary objective of the program is to build community. She said Imagine Housing has partnered with Congregations for the Homeless and with other community organizations.

Ms. Berens noted that staff will continue to provide more details about topical areas as the Council continues to discuss and study the project.

Major Carl Kleinknecht, Police Department, said the Bellevue Police response to homelessness includes dealing with the increase in unpermitted encampments, utilizing the mobile crisis team, and coordinating with Congregations for the Homeless outreach services. He said that, in recent years, the City developed a consistent response involving multiple partners, including nonprofit organizations. When individuals camp on private property, the Police Department has trespass authority. The mobile crisis team is based in South Seattle and response to the Eastside was not satisfactory. A team now spends a portion of the day at Bellevue City Hall to enhance the response within Eastside communities.

Major Kleinknecht said that, based on a case in Boise within the past two years, the lack of shelter space restricts the ability of Police to enforce trespass for unpermitted camping in public spaces and parks. He said the City increased bike patrols in the Eastgate hillside area and works with Congregations for the Homeless to assist homeless campers.

Major Kleinknecht said the Police have recommended changes to Bellevue College and King County Metro to trim vegetation, add lighting, and add call boxes on the trail to Bellevue College. He said cell phone coverage is not reliable on the college campus and could be improved to enhance security.

Major Kleinknecht said certain businesses in the area have private security. The Police Department would work to coordinate regular meetings with businesses and residents to mitigate issues before and after the opening of the shelter and housing. He said the Police Chief divided Bellevue into three geographic areas, with a Captain responsible for each area, which enhances the department's focus on the needs of specific areas. In 2017, the Bellevue Police Department will implement CompStat data collection, which provides daily crime statistics to better focus

Police resources. Major Kleinknecht said Bellevue Police will continue to coordinate public safety issues with Bellevue College.

Major Kleinknecht said Bellevue is a safe community. He said the existence of a shelter has not affected violent crime rates against persons. He acknowledged that the presence of a shelter might be associated with an increase in certain property crimes (e.g., theft of items outside homes and businesses). In the absence of an arrest for a property crime in which the suspect indicates he lives in the shelter, the Police cannot automatically link the crime to the presence of the shelter. However, the Police and community should not ignore crimes that occur. He said a resident of the winter shelter during the past year committed three armed robberies, and the person was arrested after the Police were able to connect him to the shelter.

Major Kleinknecht highlighted crime statistics for the time period before and after the opening of the BelRed winter shelter. Drug crimes decreased after the shelter opened.

Major Kleinknecht said next steps are to continue to solicit input from the public and from law enforcement partners, visit regional shelters, and to constantly evaluate the effectiveness of Bellevue policing. He said the Police Department has been refining its homelessness response over the past three years.

Councilmember Slatter referred to the graphs and observed that violent crime and property crimes were higher within one mile of the BelRed shelter location before it opened. She questioned the reason for selecting that location, noting that the proposed Eastgate location has lower crime rates. Major Kleinknecht noted that the one-mile radius incorporates a portion of the Downtown, which is more densely populated than the Eastgate location. Ms. Slatter said it would be interesting to analyze the data for other shelter locations in Bellevue.

Dan Stroh, Planning Director, said that community engagement is ongoing.

Councilmember Robertson asked staff to ensure that the Council receives all public comments.

Mr. Stroh said the Lincoln Center interim shelter site is now open, and project reports will be published in February 2017. Staff will return to the Council in March for further discussion of the reports and to consider the Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment. The Transportation Commission's work, discussed earlier in the evening, will be presented to the Council in March as well. He said the Council might want to consider forming a community advisory group. If the site is selected in April, the King County Council will also need to take action. The next step will be to create funding applications for the shelter and housing. If applicable, the community advisory group's work would be submitted to the Council in June. Environmental review and the land use approval processes would be initiated at that time. Construction is anticipated in 2019.

Mayor Stokes said he does not want the Council to be rushed through the process. He observed that the public will have continued input, including reactions to the information presented this evening. He said it is important to be flexible with the timeline.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted that it was getting late and the Council still needed to discuss the budget. He suggested that the Council defer further questions and discussion at this time.

Councilmember Robertson noted the proposed sequencing of the process, including the potential role of a community advisory group. She said the community advisory group, if formed, should present its recommendations to the Council before entering into the agreement with King County.

Ms. Robertson asked staff to consider whether the City should hire a consultant with national expertise in homeless shelters and the permanent housing model. Mayor Stokes concurred that hiring a consultant could be helpful.

Councilmember Robinson requested a report on the data trends reflected in the shelter intake forms. She would like to consider having more permanent beds and fewer emergency beds as part of the project.

→ At 9:50, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m.
Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(e) Discussion of Preliminary 2017-2018 Operating Budget and 2017-2023 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion of the Preliminary 2017-2018 Operating Budget and 2017-2023 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. He noted that the Council held three public hearings on the budget and CIP Plan. He said staff is seeking Council direction to finalize the budget for adoption on December 5.

Councilmember Wallace questioned the funding sources for items to potentially be added to the budget.

Toni Call, Finance Director, said there are contingencies in both the two-year operating budget (\$500,000 annually) and the seven-year CIP Plan (\$7 million). She noted the previous question from Councilmember Lee regarding restoring restroom operations for specific parks, and whether that could be absorbed into the Parks and Community Services Department's regular budget. Ms. Call said staff recommends funding the function from the operating contingency.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak suggested working through the list of Council requests for additions to the preliminary budget. He noted that staff will bring the parental leave issue back to the Council during the mid-biennium budget.

With regard to the solid waste study, the Council provided direction to fund the study with \$150,000 for a review of options in 2017. The funding will come from the solid waste fund reserve with no rate impact.

Mr. Chelminiak recalled a Council consensus to restore year-round restrooms in certain parks, to be absorbed into the Parks and Community Services Department's regular operating budget.

He noted support to provide \$50,000 for the TechHire Initiative from the operating budget contingency. There was a Council consensus to provide an additional \$1.5 million for the Grand Connection project from the Capital Investment Program (CIP) contingency.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak stated his understanding that the Council supports the \$200,000 funding request for the Eastside Pathways program.

He noted Council interest in further discussion regarding the Guan Yin water feature and the multicultural center. He said there are additional requests from the public to be discussed as well.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Ms. Call said the Eastside Rail Corridor request of \$500,000 would be divided equally between 2017 and 2018 from the CIP contingency. The proposal has been updated to reflect past Council discussion.

Mr. Wallace stated his understanding regarding updated funding for the Grand Connection project: \$500,000 in 2017; \$1 million in 2018; \$1 million in 2019; and \$1 million in 2020. The impact to the CIP contingency totals \$1.5 million (\$500,000 added in 2019 and \$1 million added in 2020).

Ms. Call said the Council has \$1 million per year in the Council Contingency Fund. Adding \$1 million for the Grand Connection in 2020 uses the full contingency. The total amount for the Grand Connection project over the seven-year CIP Plan would be \$3.5 million.

Councilmember Wallace suggested reducing the \$1 million to \$500,000 for 2020, and allocating the other \$500,000 to 2021. He said that would allow the use of contingency funds for additional items in those two years. There was general Council agreement with his suggestion. Ms. Call said she would adjust the CIP Plan accordingly.

Mayor Stokes noted the request for \$50,000 to conduct a study to address the interest and needs related to cross-cultural programming. He said this should not be interpreted as a commitment to pursue a new building.

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran described the steps involved in studying a multicultural center: 1) program planning/public outreach, 2) detailed analysis of supply and demand of facilities that might be available, and 3) hiring an architect to use a program plan and facility analysis to develop an architectural program that delivers a center that meets the demands of the program plan. He said \$50,000 would fund the first step.

Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Mr. Foran said the work could be completed in 2017 with funding from the operating contingency. Mr. Chelminiak expressed support for the proposal.

Councilmember Slatter said the study does not rule out a building. It also suggests that, programmatically, the City would benefit from the public outreach and collaboration over time. While there are members of the community who would like a new building, she observed that a study has not been completed to determine whether that is the best approach. She suggested that a more appropriate approach might involve ways to facilitate a community dialogue through

programming that does not necessitate a new building. Ms. Slatter spoke in favor of moving forward with the first step for \$50,000.

Councilmember Wallace questioned whether surplus Parks REET funds could be allocated to the work. Ms. Call said she would research whether REET funds can be used for that purpose. Deputy Mayor Chelminiak suggested that REET funds are only available for capital projects.

Councilmember Robinson suggested that perhaps County funds could be used for the study. Mayor Stokes said that option could be explored next year.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Ms. Call said operating contingency funds would be appropriate for the multicultural center public outreach and programming study. CIP funds are typically used for studies moving toward a known capital investment. Mayor Stokes confirmed that the \$50,000 would come from the operating contingency.

Councilmember Lee said he does not want to preclude any options from consideration.

Mayor Stokes proposed deferring a decision on the Guan Yin water feature until next year to allow further work on related issues. Councilmembers concurred with deferring a decision and retaining the \$150,000 in the CIP Plan until that time.

Noting a request from the public, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak observed that the squash program funding request is essentially a gift of public funds. It does not meet the criteria for the use of public funds for public benefit. If it is to be presented as a social services program, the request should be submitted by the organization to the Human Services Commission. If it is a request for a sports program, the issue should be addressed by the Parks and Community Services Board.

Councilmember Slatter concurred with the suggestion to not fund the request. Mayor Stokes noted a consensus to not fund the squash program request.

Mr. Chelminiak said the funding request from Pacific Northwest Ballet better meets the criteria for public benefit. He suggested that additional work is needed in that regard, however. He said he is not able to judge whether \$500,000 would be the appropriate amount to contribute.

Councilmember Robertson said she supports some type of support to PNB. However, the Council needs to understand the agreement with the organization and whether it meets the public benefit criteria. She suggested that the Council defer a decision until further due diligence is completed next year.

Mr. Chelminiak noted that PNB provides educational programs, and the organization's purpose fits with the BelRed Plan and its objectives regarding an arts community.

Councilmember Lee said PNB's programs are an asset to Bellevue, and he would like the City to support at least a portion of the request, perhaps \$100,000 instead of the requested \$500,000.

Mr. Chelminiak said he would rather defer a decision on a dollar amount until the Council is able to learn more about the request. He concurred with Councilmember Robertson's suggested course of action.

Councilmember Robinson said she would like to see the effect of not funding PNB for the next year. She would not want the program to leave Bellevue. Mr. Chelminiak said he does not believe there is a risk that PNB would leave Bellevue. He said the request is more focused on expanding their facility and programs.

Councilmember Wallace said he is struggling with seeing where the PNB request fits within the City's budget. It is not a human services or parks project. Perhaps it is an arts and culture initiative. However, the City does not have significant arts funding.

Mr. Wallace cautioned that contributing funds could set a poor precedent if the City is not able to support it through existing policy. He said perhaps the public art program could include arts and culture initiatives of different types, and the budget could be increased accordingly. The Arts Commission could then determine whether the request fits within the City's established priorities.

Mr. Wallace said there are dozens of worthy nonprofit organizations. However, he suggested the Council needs to be careful about ensuring there is a proper basis for meeting the requests.

Mayor Stokes concurred with Mr. Wallace's comments. Mr. Stokes observed that the funding request is not related to the negative impacts of relocating due to the Sound Transit light rail project. Instead, the funding is requested to provide an improved and larger facility.

Mayor Stokes said it is time for the Council to review human services, housing, and arts funding within the contemporary context of the community. He suggested addressing the issue during the Council's annual retreat.

Mayor Stokes noted a Council consensus to defer the decision on the Pacific Northwest Ballet funding request.

→ At 10:26 p.m., Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to extend the meeting to 10:45 p.m. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councilmember Slatter concurred with Mr. Wallace's concern about setting a precedent with regard to this type of community request.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said he shares Mr. Wallace's concern as well.

Councilmember Wallace said he would like proposals to be tied to existing City policies.

Moving on, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted the request for \$5.25 million from the Housing Development Consortium. He said the Council needs to set aside money for housing needs. However, he wants to wait to hear further input from the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Group (TAG). He is not ready to allocate a large amount to any particular program at this point.

Councilmember Robertson concurred.

Responding to Mayor Stokes, Ms. Call clarified that the Housing Development Consortium asked the City to increase its contribution to the Housing Trust Fund by \$750,000 annually over the seven-year CIP Plan. Ms. Call said she is hearing Council interest in retaining some dollar amount in the CIP Plan but deferring a decision on how housing dollars will be used.

Councilmember Robertson expressed her support for that approach. She wants to hear from the TAG before the Council makes its decisions.

Councilmember Robinson said she supports reserving funding to respond to the TAG's recommendations. She does not want to send full funding to one organization at this point.

Mayor Stokes concurred, noting that the City is currently studying and developing a broad, strategic approach to address housing challenges.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak concurred with deferring a decision until the Council receives more information from the TAG.

Councilmember Wallace suggested one approach would be to allocate \$500,000 annually in the CIP Plan as an affordable housing contingency. Ms. Call confirmed that the budget could add a new project as suggested.

Councilmember Slatter concurred with the suggestion, noting the importance of maintaining agility in responding to unanticipated needs such as the Highland Village situation.

Mayor Stokes said it would be appropriate to defer funding decisions until the Affordable Housing Strategic Plan is adopted. He confirmed that the \$500,000 annually will not be spent until specific decisions are made by the Council.

Councilmember Lee proposed adding a new line item identified as advanced transportation technology alternatives.

Councilmember Wallace said he and Mr. Lee have been working to develop a proposal encompassing advanced transportation technologies. Mr. Wallace suggested the need for a full-time employee focused on developing a transportation technology strategy and assisting the staff working on the Smart City strategy. The proposal requests \$150,000 annually over two years to hire an employee dedicated to the work as described, develop relationships with private and public entities, and to pursue grant opportunities.

Mayor Stokes said the proposal is consistent with the objectives of the Eastside Transportation Partnership's Technology Innovation Conference on December 2. He said he will be ETP Chair next year. He suggested Bellevue can be a leader in exploring and implementing new technology.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak expressed support for the proposal. Ms. Call said the position could be funded through either the operating or CIP contingency. However, staff positions generally fall within the operating budget. Mr. Chelminiak concurred with that approach.

Mayor Stokes noted a Council consensus in support of the proposal.

(f) Regional Issues Overview

[Information provided in meeting packet.]

5. Continued Oral Communications: None.

Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw