January 9, 2015

Metropolitan King County Council
516 Third Ave., Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmembers,

Greetings from the men & women of SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resource Effort)! We hope this letter finds you doing well.

First, we would like to thank you again for increasing the total allocation of Reduced Rate Human Service bus tickets. As you know, our members rely on these bus tickets to get to and from our shelters and tent cities.

We are writing to you today because we are faced with another predicament. Recently, SHARE’s self-managed shelter network was completely defunded by the King County Department of Community and Human Services (through its RFP 1144-14-LSM Rapid Rehousing, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Shelter Diversion for Homeless Households).

SHARE is the largest and most cost-effective shelter network in Seattle/King County, with 15 self-managed indoor shelters and many other life-saving efforts. We operate on a shoe-string budget. Our capacity to continue to provide survival shelters cannot bear any loss of funding.

For more than a decade, when the now-County shelter funding was administered by the State of Washington, we received $55,000 per annum. In 2013, when this survival shelter funding transferred to the County, we only were awarded $20,000 per annum. Now, we have completely been defunded by the County.

Participants in our shelters are just as successful as any other shelter’s participants at moving into affordable housing when it is available. In King County, though, we lack tens of thousands of affordable homes for all who need them. SHARE doesn’t pretend to link people to non-existent housing.

It doesn’t make moral or financial sense to cut the most cost-effective shelter network because it doesn’t score points for impossible linkages. This sort of pretense is why now, at the end of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, there are more homeless people, not fewer, than when the Plan began.
We would like to meet with you to address this injustice, and to see what can be done so that SHARE may continue to provide survival shelters to the growing number of homeless people in King County.

Without shelter, people die, and Women in Black are standing vigil this Wednesday for four new deaths, including three that occurred outside Seattle, in King County.

Please contact our consultant, at (206) 448-7889, to arrange a meeting with us soon.

Sincerely,
Sent by Email Monday Morning, 3/16/2015

Dear Executive Constantine:

Last night our fellow campers at SHARE/WHEEL's Tent City4 asked us to register our great
disappointment with your denial of our legitimate Permit Application last Friday. TC4 was
further shocked Saturday morning when construction vehicles filled the 'unusable' parking lot
at the Issaquah Recreational Campground, buttressed by numerous King County Sheriff's
vehicles on the perimeter. This show of force was meant to intimidate us. It continues a
pattern of disrespecting the homeless communities and their continued efforts to stay together
and safe.

In your time as Co-Chair of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, homelessness
increased substantially. This emergency was acknowledged and a change of course was agreed
upon. The 10 Year Plan was adjusted to increase shelter and encampments TONIGHT for the
thousands of homeless people who had no safe place to go in King County. The adjustments in
the plan include supporting encampments and low cost emergency shelters.

You have not heeded these changes. One consequence has been continued increases in
homelessness: January's One Night Count of homeless people outside in King County was 21%
higher than the previous year. On Saturday Margaret Pitka, a homeless woman alone and
isolated—in a tent just 5 blocks from your office—was shot to death. Having 15 deaths of
homeless people outside or by violence in King County so soon in the year is unprecedented.

This is what happens when immediate needs and requests of the people are ignored, and
poorly targeted programs and panaceas are substituted. You are wasting too much of King
County's money on 'landlord liaisons', case management, computer tracking and programs
benefiting the few, instead of shelter for the many.

At the same time the largest and most cost-effective shelter provider in King County, was cut
from King County's 2015 Budget. Cutting cost-effective shelter when more people are becoming
homeless is shocking, misguided and counter-productive The City of Seattle has taken creative
steps to fund and expand encampments. At the same time, the request of SHARE/WHEEL's
Tent City4—hand-delivered to your office and dated February 5th, 2015—was DENIED Friday
without justifiable cause.
June 1, 2015

Statement for SHARE to the Committee to End Homelessness in King County’s Interagency Council:

My name is Raymond Holloway and I am a SHARE2 Worker living at the Graham2 House. I am speaking today on behalf of SHARE – Seattle Housing and Resource Effort.

Our community, with our sister organization WHEEL, has the largest indoor shelter and encampment network in King County. We have around 10% of the shelter bed nights in King County.

Our financial situation is dire. We are over $60,000 in arrears and will be unable to continue for much more than a month. We are in debt for our telephones, our copier, our porta potties, our rents, and our vehicles fuel. SHARE is so interconnected and cost effective now that a disturbance in one area can cause the rest to crash.

We are hoping that before this happens a campaign to persuade the wider community that Homeless Shelter is important will be successful. SHARE is kicking off this campaign with a sleep out this Sunday night. It will be the first of 12 sleep outs ending the night of June 29th, 2015. This educational process will be comprised of a rolling shutdown of SHARE Shelters and subsequent sleep out in different areas. Each SHARE Shelter will close for one night – and it will relocate for that evening to a part of the wider community that could benefit from education.

Those shelter participants who do not want to sleep out will be directed to another indoor SHARE Shelter that one night, and the shelter will re open the following evening.

Through this educational process we hope that our personal stories and experiences are listened to – and that then 4 questions are answered.

Here are the 4 questions we are looking for leaders – and everyone in this room is a leader - to answer:

1) Why do over 250 people stay in SHARE Shelters almost every night?
2) What would you do without shelter?
3) Is self managed shelter part of solving homelessness?
4) Will United Way of King County AND King County Government step up and help SHARE?

Thank You
23 September 2015

King County Executive Dow Constantine
Chinook Building
401 5th Ave. Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Constantine:

We the women of WHEEL just came from standing vigil for the 46th homeless person to die outside or by violence already in 2015—Ayla Birden, 21, who was found dead in the vehicle in which she slept, in SODO, earlier this month. Her death might have been murder. Altogether, at least 10 homeless people have been murdered in our County already this year—all over the County. These numbers should shock the conscience.

In this light, it is also shocking—and very wrong—for the County to give an eviction notice to SHARE/WHEEL’s Tent City4, currently on public land in Snoqualmie. They have no place to go, and without shelter, people die.

We the homeless women of WHEEL and Women in Black urge you to reverse the unfair and immoral permit denial for Tent City4. Allow them to stay on County land. This is a matter of life or death!

Sincerely,
The Women of WHEEL and Women in Black

Cheri Ballard, Managing Chair
Don’t Run

cc: Adrienne Quinn (2)
KING COUNTY GOVERNMENT: Please Walk Your Talk.

County Executive Constantine and the County Council have pledged to follow the King County Committee to End Homelessness Ten (plus four) Year Plan to Make Homelessness Rarer, Briefer and just One Time in King County.

A clear part of the plan is to ‘ENSURE SUFFICIENT SHELTER CAPACITY INCLUDING THE PRESERVATION OF EXISTING SHELTER.” (Section 2.1.a)

Rather than walking this talk, County Executive Constantine cut the County’s Support of SHARE’s shelters to ZERO at the start of 2015. King County Government continues to offer no financial support to SHARE’s shelter and encampment network – King County’s largest, safest and most cost effective.

When people lack shelter step one is to provide them with shelter. Homelessness is increasing in King County and more shelter is needed. King County can’t lose the shelter it has now.

45 homeless people have died in King County, either outside or by violence this year. That is more, already, than in all of 2014.

Last week Northwest Cascade said they will take away the Honey Buckets from our two encampments and several indoor shelters by Labor Day – unless they receive $25,000 from SHARE by then. We sent them $10,000 and that’s all we have. Our trash bill is an additional $9,500 dollars.

It has not escaped our notice that the Chinook Building has restrooms.

While you are using the restroom today, think of homeless people in King County. Think of us, struggling to pay Honey Bucket bills with no support from King County Government.

When is King County Government going to Walk their Talk?

For further information go to www.sharewheel.org or SHARE – Seattle Housing and Resource Effort on Facebook. Our phone number is (206) 448-7889, email is tc3@sharewheel.org and mailing address is P.O. Box 2548, Seattle WA 98111.

County Executive Constantine has his office – and bathroom – on the top floor of the Chinook Building.
Tent City 3 is presently 40 Yards North of the Seattle City Limits
September 21, 2015

Council Member Larry Gossett
516 Third Ave, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council Person Gossett:

Greetings from the people of SHARE. We hope this letter finds you doing well. We are writing to request King County resume funding to SHARE organization. For over 20 years SHARE has provided shelter and a place of safety to homeless men and women in King County.

SHARE was totally defunded by King County in 2015 and we want to meet with you very soon to discuss ongoing funding from King County once again. Our debt is currently in serious arrears and the men and women are in danger of being displaced (over $45K and growing).

This is a crucial matter and we hope we can count on you. Equally crucial is that on Thursday County Executive Constantine denied a legitimate permit application for Tent City4 at it’s present location and seems to be planning to sweep them shortly – which would cause another 40 people to be without shelter.

When Seattle is going the opposite direction and helping keep Disciplined and Rule Abiding Encampments together and safe why is this happening?

Please contact our consultant Scott Morrow at 206-448-7889 to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,
October 30, 2015

Council Person Gossett  
King County Courthouse #1200  
516 3rd Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  

Dear Councilperson Gossett,  

SHARE would like to thank you for meeting with us on October 23rd, last week.  

We have good news: Governor Inslee has agreed to let Tent City4 move on November 7th to Lake Sammamish State Park. Your willingness to call the Governor may have been instrumental in securing a place at Lake Sammamish State Park.  

We also look forward to working with you in the future on securing consistent ongoing funding from King County. Safe Shelter – especially when so many in King County have no shelter at all – must be the foundation of the County’s homelessness policy. To value programs that only benefit a few and to ignore the needs of the many without shelter is not good policy.  

We at SHARE would like to be informed of dates and times for the county’s budget hearings and any other processes that are necessary to securing that funding.  

Again thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with us. We look forward to continuing our long successful work together.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

SHARE Participants
December 7, 2015

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

We are representatives of the S.H.A.R.E/WHEEL organization, which is a first response shelter program located in Seattle and surrounding areas.

Every night 400 men, women and children are provided a safe, dry, warm place to sleep at a S.H.A.R.E. shelter, with a total of 146,000 beds provided each year.

We are a self-managed program that utilizes locations that allow us to shelter people while keeping the costs of running the program less than all other shelters in King County, city of Seattle.

Your feedback would be greatly appreciated. We are writing today to request a meeting so that we may discuss S.H.A.R.E. and the homeless state of emergency. Thank you for your time and attention concerning this important matter.

Sincerely,
January 2, 2016

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
King County Councilperson  
King County Courthouse  
Seattle, WA 98111

Dear Councilperson Balducci,

Congratulations on being elected to King County Council!

We are the men and women of SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resource Effort), King County’s largest and most cost effective emergency shelter provider. We shelter approximately 500 homeless men, women and children each night in both our indoor shelters and our encampments.

Homelessness throughout King County has been declared a state of emergency and we would like an opportunity to meet with you and discuss how a partnership between King County and SHARE can make a dramatic impact on individuals and families sleeping on the street.

Again, congratulations. We look forward to a lasting partnership. Please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Very Sincerely,

[Signature]

SHARE/WHEEL’s Tent City 3  
P.O. Box 2548  
Seattle, WA 98111

Saturday January 2, 2016

Mr. Harold Booker c/o  
Bryn Mawr United Methodist Church  
Seattle, WA

Dear Mr. Booker:

On behalf of all of us at Tent City3, SHARE and WHEEL we would like to thank you for your consideration and generosity for paying the Tent City 3 garbage bill for three months this year. The 100 residents of Tent City 3 are deeply grateful for your assistance in helping to meet their basic needs.

As you may know, removing garbage is essential for maintaining healthy and sanitary living conditions. Thank you for understanding our need, and quietly helping.

"Do kindness, love justice and walk humbly with your God." That is what we have seen from you and your church. It has been such a blessing to us.

Sincerely,
January 25, 2016
The Honorable Joe McDermott
King County Councilperson
King County Courthouse
Seattle, WA

Dear Councilperson McDermott:

We bid you greetings from the men and women of SHARE. We are requesting a meeting at your earliest opportunity to discuss an emergency endangering both our organization and more importantly thousands of homeless and formerly homeless men and women in King County.

Below is background information on this emergency, in preparation for our meeting.

On Tuesday January 21st 2014 SHARE submitted two RFP’s to the King County Department of Human Services (RFP # 1015-16-VLN). One is for indoor shelter and the other for encampments. We are hoping that these two applications will be taken into consideration and expedited by the King County Government.

If this is done, King County will once again be supporting the largest and most cost effective shelter and encampment network in King County. Without this support it is likely that our entire network of indoor shelters and encampments will crash due to lack of funding.

SHARE has been totally defunded by King County Human Services these last two years. This is because — contrary to established County Policy — the bidding process has been rigged against the support of existing shelter, no matter how cost effective.

This rigging is a willful disregard of Strategy 2.1 of the All Homes Plan to make homelessness rare, brief and one time. That Plan has been adopted as policy by King County through the Continuum of Care Document passed by you and your County Council Colleagues last spring.

Strategy 2.1 is clear. It mandates that funders “ensure sufficient shelter capacity, including the preservation of existing shelter.”

Shortchanging this policy is one reason why homelessness keeps increasing in King County. Prioritizing and then pouring money into cost ineffective landlord liaison projects, misguided data operation...
February 12, 2016

The Honorable Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
King County Councilperson  
King County Courthouse, 12th Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council Person Kohl-Welles:

We have just been to the Chinook Building where Adrienne Quinn and the Community and Human Services Department were asked to sign the Eviction Notice they have effectively given us by repeatedly turning down our requests for financial support.

As a result our organization is truly broke. We don’t have enough money to pay all staff their paychecks on time most months, we have over $20,000 in bills that are overdue, and sooner rather than later a vendor – Home Depot, COSTCO, utility companies, the honey bucket folks – will stop working with us and everything will fall apart.

If we close, over 400 homeless people will lose their warm safe dry places to sleep, and be forced into the street.

Does King County Government want this to happen? If they do want it to happen, why did King County agree to the ‘All Home’ Plan and the King County Continuum of Care Plan that both MANDATE that King County support existing shelters?

Please meet with us and help work out a solution. 4 homeless people have already died outside in King County this year, homelessness is up another 20% this year and every night homelessness is getting worse and worse.

King County is losing the battle against homelessness because of things like this – ignoring and disrespecting the first responders to homelessness, and pretending that ruining shelters has no consequences.

Let’s turn it around!

Sincerely,

[Signatures]
February 12, 2016

The Honorable Claudia Bultucci
King County Councilperson
King County Courthouse, 12th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council Person Bultucci,

We have just been to the Chinook Building where Adrienne Quinn and the Community and Human Services Department were asked to sign the Eviction Notice they have effectively given us by repeatedly turning down our requests for financial support.

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Let’s turn it around!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

SHARE
P.O. Box 2548
Seattle, WA 98111
(206) 448-7889
sheker@sharewheel.org

February 12, 2016

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
King County Councilperson
King County Courthouse, 12th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council Person Upthegrove,

We have just been to the Chinook Building where Adrienne Quinn and the Community and Human Services Department were asked to sign the Eviction Notice they have effectively given us by repeatedly turning down our requests for financial support.

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Let’s turn it around!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

SHARE
P.O. Box 2548
Seattle, WA 98111
(206) 448-7889
sheker@sharewheel.org

February 12, 2016

The Honorable Pete Von Reichbauer
King County Councilperson
King County Courthouse, 12th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council Person Reichbauer,

We have just been to the Chinook Building where Adrienne Quinn and the Community and Human Services Department were asked to sign the Eviction Notice they have effectively given us by repeatedly turning down our requests for financial support.

As a result our organization is truly broke. We don’t have enough money to pay all staff their paychecks on time most months, we have over $20,000 in bills that are overdue, and sooner rather than later a vendor – Home Depot, COSTCO, utility companies, the honey bucket folks – will stop working with us and everything will fall apart.

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Let’s turn it around!

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear Mr. Hernandez:

RE: RFP 1015-16 VLN 2016 King County Shelter / Day Center Supplemental

Seattle, WA 98111-2548
P.O. Box 2498
Michael Hernandez
Seattle Housing and Rescue from (SHARE)
February 12, 2016

Thank you for submitting a proposal for the SHARE Room Closure under the King County Community and Human Services (DOCS) Day Center Supplemental RF: On behalf of the King County Community and Human Services (DOCS) I wish to inform you that your application was deemed ineligible because it did not meet the following requirements of the eligibility application.

Applicants are required to meet the following eligibility requirements: Be located in King County outside the City of Seattle; provide expanded/shelter bed and or night shelter; and/or open new emergency overnight shelter spaces located in King County outside Seattle that will expand existing shelter beds and or night shelter. If open.

Applicants must also meet the following requirements: Be located in King County outside the City of Seattle; provide expanded/shelter bed and or night shelter; and/or open new emergency overnight shelter spaces located in King County outside Seattle that will expand existing shelter beds and or night shelter. If open.

Please submit a letter of explanation to: Michael Hernandez Seattle Housing and Rescue from (SHARE)
February 12, 2016

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Please submit a letter of explanation to: Michael Hernandez Seattle Housing and Rescue from (SHARE)
20 February 2016

Ms Victoria Nakamichi, King County Procurement Specialist  
c/o Chinook Building 501 Fifth Avenue  
Seattle, WA  98104

Dear Ms. Nakamichi;

We--the homeless men, women and families of SHARE--hereby appeal your decision to deny without consideration our two strong applications for King County Shelter Funding through RFP 1015-16-VLN.

**Tent City Proposal:** You state you denied our $50,000 Tent City Expansion Proposal without consideration because our Tent Cities are not, by King County definition, shelter. More than 200 of us find shelter, home, community, power, safety and hope in our three self-managed Tent Cities every day. SHARE Tent Cities have received numerous endorsements and accolades from elected officials and many other public and private leaders who’ve visited our sites. In fact, the City of Seattle has shown remarkable compassion and leadership in both offering City land for encampments and funding for them.

Tent Cities are, in fact, a viable and humane shelter option for homeless individuals who are seeking the safety and stability they need to rebuild their lives. Stating they are not shelter is incredibly out of touch with reality and precedent.

In fact, King County itself has set precedents in recognizing that Tent Cities are fundable and permittable shelter:

- Last year, without any due process whatsoever, your own King County Community and Human Services Division struck a $5,000 contract with the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness to seek sites for County-located encampments.

- This year, very recently, King County issued a permit for a Tent Encampment to temporarily reside on County land

With these precedents, how can you possible state that Tent Cities are not County-recognized shelter?

**Shelter Proposal:** You state you denied our $50,000 Self-Managed Indoor Shelter Proposal without consideration because our shelters are in Seattle. Every night, more than 250 homeless men and women
are safely sheltered in our 15 indoor shelters throughout the City. Around 20% of our shelter participants come from outside Seattle but within King County. They come to us because there’s not enough shelter—by thousands of spots—to house all homeless people in King County.

For decades, King County has financially supported Seattle shelters. We find your denial reasoning to be obtuse, and far out of compliance both with your own 10 Year Plan (plus Four Year Extension) to End Homelessness, and the Homeless State of Emergency as declared by Executive Constantine.

**Unlawful Lack of Published Appeal Process:** In addition, we would like to state for the record that we believe it is unlawful and wrong for King County to engage in Request for Proposal funding processes without offering any published appeal process or mechanism of checks and balances.

SHARE is the Pacific Northwest’s largest and most cost-effective shelter organization. We have been repeatedly denied King County funding at the same time it has been acknowledged that our King County community is in the midst of a Homeless State of Emergency.

You’ve completely cut off a leading first responder to the Crisis of Homelessness. If SHARE is forced to halt operations due to lack of funding, the repercussions could be tragic and highly visible, countywide.

If you’re still not convinced that SHARE is doing important work for King County’s homeless community, we would like to extend an invitation to any County Leader or Bureaucrat who would be interested to tour any of our Tent Cities or shelters, as part of your appeal consideration. We are confident that you would be impressed and enlightened by seeing our mode of operations and would then roll back your erroneous funding denial.

Without shelter people die.

Sincerely,

The Men and Women of SHARE

cc King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Council, KCCHS Director Adrienne Quinn
February 24, 2016

SHARE
PO Box 2548
Seattle, WA 98111

Thank you for keeping me informed. I have spoken with DCHS to be assured that their funding award processes are principled and fair. I will continue to look at these processes with this mind as we move ahead. I look forward to learning more about your organization and ways we can jointly address the causes and solutions for our regional homelessness crisis.

Sincerely,

Claudia Balducci
Councilmember District 6
RE: Reconsideration of Hinz 3/8/16 Decision regarding RFP 1015-16-VLN-2016

Guy, Ken <Ken.Guy@kingcounty.gov>  Fri, Apr 1, 2016 at 4:42 PM
To: Share Shelters <shelters@sharewheel.org>

Dear SHARE Shelters,

Please excuse my delay in acknowledging your March 14th request for reconsideration involving the RFP for emergency shelters. I am in the process of researching facts and carefully considering the merits of your request. I expect to have a final decision letter to you the week of April 11. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Ken Guy
Director, Finance and Business Operations Division
Department of Executive Services, King County
401 5th Avenue CNK-ES-0300
Seattle, WA 98104
Ph: 206-263-9254
Fx: 206-296-7670
email: ken.guy@kingcounty.gov

From: Share Shelters [mailto:shelters@sharewheel.org]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Guy, Ken
Subject: Reconsideration of Hinz 3/8/16 Decision regarding RFP 1015-16-VLN-2016

SHARE
P.O. Box 2548
Seattle, WA 98111
(206) 448-7889

March 14, 2016