



City of Kirkland

Proposal to Create a Plan to Address Homelessness in Kirkland

May 2024

The problem: *there is not enough affordable housing or shelter capacity for Kirkland's unhoused population today.*

The City is proposing:

- Developing an Action Plan to address issues of homelessness
- Community engagement to inform the Action Plan
- City Council consideration of the draft Action Plan by the end of 2024

The City is **NOT** proposing:

- Opening parks to homeless encampments
- Opening new shelters near primary schools
- Taking in Seattle's homeless population
- Siting a tiny home village at Houghton Village (the former PCC site)
- A specific housing and homelessness ballot measure. Potential future ballot measures would not be considered without a demonstrated need and a comprehensive public process.

Why does the City of Kirkland need a Homelessness Action Plan?

1. So we're prepared.

Having a Homelessness Action Plan will prepare the City to respond quickly and compassionately if there were to be a sudden change in the homeless population in Kirkland.

2. To be transparent while helping people who need it.

Developing a Homelessness Action Plan provides a clear strategy for humanely supporting community members who are unhoused today.

3. To engage our community.

Like any City Plan, development of a Homelessness Action Plan includes a public process, including community engagement, and public discussion at Council meetings.

4. To expand our options.

Today, because of current case law influencing issues of homelessness, if an unhoused individual is living on public property, the City *cannot* move them unless there is somewhere else for them to go, such as shelter or another piece of public property.

→ What does this mean in practice?

Being homeless is not a crime. Kirkland Police cannot arrest or trespass someone on **public** property if the individual chooses not to leave and there's no where else to go.

→ Why does this matter?

Today, the City has limited tools to address issues of homelessness even for the relatively small population of people living unhoused in Kirkland.

Looking ahead, if there were to be a sudden change in homeless population in Kirkland, how would the community want the City to respond?

What you can do:

- Read draft Resolution R-5631 and more about the City's actions on homelessness to date at www.kirklandwa.gov/homelessness
- Use the **OurKirkland Portal** to submit non-emergency reports of unhoused individuals to the "Homelessness Assistance and Response Team"
- Continue caring deeply about our community.

OurKirkland

