

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE 22-033 **RELATED TO HOUSING AT COUNTY OWNED HOTELS,
REQUIRING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT
SERVICES, AMENDING SCC 2.400.020 AND SCC
2.400.065 OF THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE
RELATED TO APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS, AND
ADDING A NEW SECTION 2.400.066 OF THE
SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE**

ECAF: 2022-0788

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Staff Person: Heidi Beazizo

DPA: Jason Cummings

PUBLIC TESTIMONY LIST

Click on Exhibit # to view document.

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PT-29	10/17/22	Public Testimony / Email – Melinda & Scott MacFarland
PT-30	10/18/22	Public Testimony / Email – Jayne Gracom
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PT-34	10/18/22	Public Testimony / Email – Susan Northrop
PT-35	10/18/22	Public Testimony / Email – Ashvin & Gauri Sanghvi
PT-36	10/18/22	Public Testimony / Email – Elizabeth Mitchell
PT-37	10/18/22	Public Testimony / Email – Sandy Higgins
PT-38	10/19/22	Public Testimony / Email – Mike Quinn
PT-39	10/19/22	Public Testimony / Email – David Walker
PT-40	10/19/22	Public Testimony / Email – Rebecca Anderson

From: [Kate Gregory](#)
To: [Wiita, Russell](#)
Subject: RE: Ordinance to require addiction treatment
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:40:00 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-1

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hi Russell

Well that's pretty succinct. If the county buys a hotel to use as permanent supportive housing, would it cease being a hotel and, thus, no longer covered by this ordinance? That's how Seattle would roll. I'd like to see all county services geared toward treatment and recovery so that there's a clear path out of addiction. I support the ideas in Michael Shellenberger's book "San Fransicko: Why Progressives Ruin Cities", specifically contingency management in housing.

Best,
Kate Gregory

From: Wiita, Russell [mailto:Russell.Wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Kate Gregory
Subject: RE: Ordinance to require addiction treatment

Hi Kate,

Thanks for reaching out regarding CM Nehring's proposed ordinance regarding chemical dependency treatment at county-owned hotels. You are correct that the Council will be considering a vote on the hotel purchases tomorrow at their 9:00 AM General Legislative Session (GLS).

Councilmember Nehring's ordinance (attached) has been assigned to the Law and Justice/Human Services committee. That committee meets next Tuesday, August 23rd. At that time, the Council will move the ordinance to GLS to set a time and date for a public hearing.

So we are asking the Council to delay the vote on the hotels until after a public hearing can be held and the ordinance can be considered.

I hope that answers your questions. It is a convoluted process. Let me know if you have any additional questions.

From: Kate Gregory <kate@gregory-white.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:47 AM
To: Wiita, Russell <Russell.Wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Subject: Ordinance to require addiction treatment

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hi Russell,

I saw a post about the upcoming council meeting where the County will vote on buying two properties to house homeless. In general I support the idea of accountability being built into housing programs, but I need to know the details before I can support the measure. I looked at the Aug 17th agenda and saw the purchase of the hotels but did not see Councilmember Nehring's ordinance. Can you send me a link to his ordinance?

Thanks,
Kate Gregory

From: [Kate Gregory](#)
To: [Wiita, Russell](#)
Subject: Ordinance to require addiction treatment
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:47:30 AM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hi Russell,

I saw a post about the upcoming council meeting where the County will vote on buying two properties to house homeless. In general I support the idea of accountability being built into housing programs, but I need to know the details before I can support the measure. I looked at the Aug 17th agenda and saw the purchase of the hotels but did not see Councilmember Nehring's ordinance. Can you send me a link to his ordinance?

Thanks,
Kate Gregory

EXHIBIT # PT-2

From: [Cindy Vick](#)
To: [Wiita, Russell](#); [Nehring, Nate](#)
Subject: FW: Public Testimony needed at County Council re: homeless hotels
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:56:27 AM

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Greetings,
My husband and I are unable to participate in tomorrow's hearing, but we do wish to register our opposition to hotels being purchased to house the homeless. There is no evidence to support the idea that providing this type of housing solves or improves the problem of people living on the streets. We could start by deterring bad behavior not enabling it. That sounds so trite, however history documents the veracity of it. What is not discouraged will be repeated.

Thank you for your ordinance, at least requiring participation in a treatment program.

Sincerely,
Cindy Vick

Let me add that only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.

Ben Franklin

Subject: FW: Public Testimony needed at County Council re: homeless hotels

Hi friends,

Last week, County Executive Dave Somers proposed the purchase of the Days Inn in Everett for homeless housing. This week, he announced the purchase of a second hotel in Edmonds to be used for the same purpose.

The vote on both purchases is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17th at 9:00 AM at the County Council's General Legislative Session.

Councilmember Nehring has introduced an ordinance that would require participants in county-owned hotel shelters to participate in chemical dependency treatment if they have a substance use disorder (drug or alcohol addiction).

We are asking the County Council to delay the vote on purchasing the hotels until the ordinance can be considered. In our opinion, it is critical to have accountability built into these programs. Requiring drug treatment will help these individuals get better and become more productive members of society rather than warehousing them in a hotel so that they are out of sight.

If you agree, please join the meeting on Wednesday using this [Zoom link](#) (or attend in

person in the Jackson Board Room, 3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett, WA 98201 – 8th Floor). The meeting starts at 9:00 AM and public comment is one of the first agenda items. If you attend virtually, you will need to click “raise hand” to indicate your interest in providing public comment.

Please let Councilmember Nehring or I know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Russell Wiita

Legislative Aide to Councilman Nate Nehring

District 1

Snohomish County Council

SmallTrees



3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609

Everett, WA 98201-4046

425-626-4173 | Russell.Wiita@snoco.org

From: [Kent Ellefson](#)
To: [Wiita, Russell](#)
Subject: Wednesday homeless meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:59:06 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-3

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

I just received an email from our church concerning the Homeless meeting Wednesday morning

I have contacted Council Member Nehring in the past and he appeared interested and listened to my comments.

I have a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacy) and worked in retail Pharmacy's for about 25 years (full and part time). I also have a degree in Chemical Engineering and have worked with several Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Companies for nearly 20 years, before I retired.

I lived in a home affected by a member who was addicted to prescription drugs (about every 10 months every year; they became somewhat sober for Thanksgiving and Christmas) from the age of about 10 until I left for college at 20. I may have a perspective that others may not have.

My belief in drug addiction is not that the addiction is the problem; it is only a symptom of the need to get high or as a method of not having to deal with their issues (they get numb).

The treatment for addiction should be based upon why the person feels the need to alter their mental state. The addiction to the drugs happens as a side effect based upon the drug dosage and length of their use. The addiction does need to be treated, but is usually not effective unless the reasons have been identified and dealt with before the addiction treatments.

As for the homeless I have encountered in the last 50 plus years, I have identified three separate groups;

1. Those who have become homeless due to circumstances "beyond their control". That is, they have lost their jobs, have had illnesses that have drained their resources, etc. They can use all the help we can give them since they do not want to be homeless, and unfortunately are more likely to refuse the needed help due to their preconceived ideas or misdirected pride.
2. Those who have a mental issues (I include drug addiction in this group) that create a situation where they feel more comfortable on the street than "under cover". They actually need medical attention more than they need housing (after the proper treatment, they can learn to cope, then they can overcome and "solve" their own homeless problems). Unfortunately, this seems to be the largest group. It must be noted again, that the problem is not the drugs, but why they feel the need to abuse them.

NOTE: in a series of lectures, to the Pharmacy School I attended, by California State Mental Hospital Mental Health Physicians in Stockton, CA in 1970, they stated, at that time, that the level of "street" heroin addiction was "ZERO", due to the fact the drug had been cut so many times that they were unable to get the drug blood levels high enough to initiate addiction (the physical not mental addiction) - this DID NOT INCLUDE the suppliers of the drug that could get more potent Heroin. They did state that the most addicting drug on the street at that time that they came in contact with, more than any opiate, cocaine, amphetamines, etc., was ethyl alcohol, or booze.

3. Then there are people that just want to "drop out" and not be part of our civilization. These have been known as Hobos, Beatniks, Hippies, Flower Children, etc. in the past. These appear to be more

interested in causing problems than being productive citizens. Their own priorities and wants are more important than anything or anybody Else's. These people are chronic, and I do not believe anything, outside of changing their outlook on life, can be done to get them to stay out of the homeless community. Most people I have known in this group have killed themselves, or "grown up" and become productive on their own.

If you think I can be of any help, just let me know. If I do not hear from you, I will attempt to connect via Zoom (do not actually know at this time if I can set up a Zoom connection since I have never tried)

Kent Ellefson
425 241-3877
LFSON72@YAHOO.COM

From: [Kent Ellefson](#)
To: [Wiita, Russell](#)
Subject: Re: Wednesday homeless meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:13:59 PM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Wiita:

In hindsight, I may have given you the idea that I did not think his mandating drug testing/treatment was not a great (and necessary) idea. I totally support that restriction for any county or state homeless purchases.

Kent Ellefson

On Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 11:59:00 AM PDT, Kent Ellefson <lfson72@yahoo.com> wrote:

I just received an email from our church concerning the Homeless meeting Wednesday morning

I have contacted Council Member Nehring in the past and he appeared interested and listened to my comments.

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"solve" their own homeless problems). Unfortunately, this seems to be the largest group. It must be noted again, that the problem is not the drugs, but why they feel the need to abuse them.

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Kent Ellefson
425 241-3877
LFSON72@YAHOO.COM

From: Kent Ellefson <lfson72@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Wiita, Russell <Russell.Wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Subject: Re: Wednesday homeless meeting

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Wiita:

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If you think I can be of any help, just let me know. If I do not hear from you, I will attempt to connect via Zoom (do not actually know at this time if I can set up a Zoom connection since I have never tried)

Kent Ellefson

425 241-3877

LFSON72@YAHOO.COM

EXHIBIT # PT-4

FILE ORD 22-033

From: [Sharon Damoff](#)
To: [Wiita, Russell](#)
Subject: Mailing list?
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:36:43 PM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hi Russell,

A friend forwarded me an email you sent out about the vote tomorrow morning on purchasing hotels for the homeless, and about delaying the purchase until an ordinance can be considered that would require drug treatment.

I support that and will try to speak at tomorrow's meeting.

Even though I do not live in Councilmember Nehring's district, I am a conservative and align far more with his positions than with Megan Dunn, who "represents" me.

Does his office have a mailing list that I could be added to so I can be informed of future votes and issues that conservatives could speak about?

Also, if there are any particular points I should be aware of ahead of tomorrow's meeting, I would appreciate further info.

Thank you,
Sharon Damoff
Mukilteo

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Laurie Cooper](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Hotel purchases
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 1:32:42 PM

EXHIBIT # **PT-5**

FILE **ORD 22-033**

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

I fully support the county purchasing of these hotels for housing needs.

Thank you!

Laurie Cooper
Edmonds since 1990

From: [Mark Smith](#)
To: [Wright, Stephanie](#); [Dunn, Megan](#); [Mead, Jared](#); [Low, Sam](#); [Nehring, Nate](#)
Cc: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: HCESC comments on hotel/motel purchases
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:27:03 PM
Attachments: [HCESC Comments 22-330 2022.08.17.pdf](#)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT # PT-6

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

On behalf of the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County please accept the attached comments as our full support for using ARPA funds to purchase hotels/motels for conversion to emergency bridge housing.

Best regards,

Mark Smith
Executive Director
Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County
425-339-1015 / mark@housingsnohomish.org
<https://www.housingsnohomish.org>
PO Box 1326, Everett, WA 98206

Please note that the Consortium's hours are M-Th, 7:30am-6:00pm



Housing Consortium of Everett & Snohomish County

PO Box 1326

Everett, WA 98037

425-339-1015

mark@housingsnohomish.org

www.housingsnohomish.org

August 16, 2022

I am writing in support of motion 22-330 to purchase property with ARPA funds for the purpose of creating emergency bridge housing.

Further, I support the implementation of a Housing First model at these properties and oppose any amendments imposing Treatment First requirements prior to housing.

Housing First is a proven model for addressing homelessness that prioritizes access to permanent, stable housing, linked with voluntary services as needed. Housing First recognizes that stable housing is a prerequisite for effective psychiatric and substance abuse treatment and for improving quality of life. Once stably housed, individuals are better able to take advantage of wrap-around services – to help support housing stability, employment, and recovery. Without stable housing, attaining these goals becomes much more difficult.

Three studies/reviews of Housing First

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Hud-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

- 84% of veterans remained stably housed after 3 years
- Emergency room visits decreased by 27%
- Hospitalizations decreased by 33%
- Healthcare costs decreased by 32%

2009 Journal of the American Medical Association

95 participants in a Housing First model and 39 on the waitlist for Housing First housing

- 53% cost reduction from median \$4066 per person to \$1911 per person
- Number of daily drinks decreased from 15.7 to 10.6 per day median after 1 year

Journal of Public Health, Oct 13 2021 – Peer reviewed

Peer review of twenty six studies

- Decreased homelessness by 88%

Plainly speaking, if the goal is to move people off the street Housing First programs improved housing stability and reduced homelessness more effectively than Treatment First programs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Smith".

Executive Director

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [ThomMaria Jackson](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Motion 22-330
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 8:35:46 PM

EXHIBIT # PT-7
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

As a resident of Snohomish County I support Motion 22-330. I support the motion for the following reasons:

Snohomish County has a severe lack of shelter. We simply need more shelter and housing in every city in our community. Homelessness is currently at a 10-year high in Snohomish County and will only continue to increase as the cost-of-living skyrockets and the variety of housing stock options are limited. This proposal would pair shelter with voluntary supportive services, which is extremely effective at helping individuals stabilize and recover from homelessness. Purchasing a hotel or motel for the provision of shelter is a wise investment of ARPA funds and advances our community's work of ending homelessness. It is far more cost effective for cities and the county to provide shelter then it is to criminalize homelessness and spend resources on constantly moving encampments.

I oppose the proposal to require individuals with substance use disorder to participate in treatment as a condition of living in this or any other similar facility. The requirement for services goes against the Housing First model, which is the generally accepted best practice for housing persons experiencing homelessness both in Snohomish County and nationally. There is a significant body of research, as well as on-the-ground wisdom from local providers that unhoused individuals need to have safe, stable housing in place before they can turn their attention to addiction recovery, education, or employment. Recovery from substance use disorder is difficult, complicated, and not a linear process. Each individual with substance use disorder will have a different path in their recovery, and attaching treatment requirements to housing is counterproductive. People need stable housing in place in order to be successful in recovery. Forcing a person to leave shelter if they do not make progress in their recovery only prolongs the recovery process and sets people up for failure.

Sincerely,

Maria Jackson

21329 95th Ave W

Edmonds, Wa 98020

From: [Susan Northrop](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Days Inn- comment for 8.17.22 meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:21:01 PM

EXHIBIT # PT-8
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello

I would like to make a comment on the Days Inn proposal for the meeting and vote tomorrow. I think that the concept of "housing first " needs to be studied much better before buying hotels and turning them into low barrier shelters.

The problem that we see in Everett on a daily basis has nothing to do with where these people sleep. We see massive drug addiction and severe mental illness as a result of the addiction. Housing these people without a strict requirement for addiction treatment is only sweeping the problem under the rug.

Please reconsider this for now and use REAL compassion rather than band-aid compassion.

Thank you for listening to our concerns

The Northrop Family

From: [Susan N](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Comment for meeting 8.17.22
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:47:01 PM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hi

I had earlier sent in a comment with concerns about the Days Inn project. I would like to add to it after reading this evening about the Everett men who were arrested in Fresno with 15 pounds in fentanyl.

I'm sure that you are aware how dangerous that amount of fentanyl would be on our streets.

So I would implore the council to please consider using any available funds to fight this destructive drug epidemic before buying housing that could very well make the problem worse.

Susan Northrop

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Wiita, Russell](#)
To: [Lao, Elena](#)
Subject: FW: Ordinance 22-033
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:13:45 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-9

FILE ORD 22-033

Additional testimony for Motions 22-330, 22-338 and Ordinance 22-033.

From: Pam Felt <huntrgathrr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 6:11 PM
To: Wiita, Russell <Russell.Wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Subject: Ordinance 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

In regards to proposed Ordinance# 22-033 I am in favor of chemical/drug treatment agreements required as proposed in this Ordinance. I have heard multiple unhoused community members state that they really need "tough love" so to speak, in order to be compelled to seek and use treatment services. It is doing our community members a disservice NOT to incorporate accountability requirements as proposed, Thank you, Pam Felt

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Kristen Holdsworth](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: August 17 Council Meeting - Support for H2A and 6A
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:54:13 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-10

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello-

Apologies for the tardiness of this email. I was planning on attending to provide public comment but am required to be in a meeting for work I cannot miss.

I am a resident of unincorporated Snohomish County in the east Silverlake area (District 5). One of the hotels you are considering acquiring is very close to my house.

I urge you to vote yes to acquire both hotels and to not require treatment as a stipulation for housing. (I am in support of agenda items H2A and 6A).

I especially appeal to Council Members Nehring and Low, as moderate conservatives and not far-right extremists. I thank you for your consideration and dedication to listening and learning from a broad variety of perspectives.

I have worked on housing strategies and solutions for over a decade. I can share first-hand experience about the policy work I have done and how by providing housing it reduces overall costs to taxpayers. Upstream solutions cost, on average, a magnitude of 10 times less than downstream clean up. Rather than share anecdotal evidence, I want to provide you with some facts and data for your consideration. As Sharon McMahon of "SharonSaysSo", a former high school civics teacher turned educator for government for grownups says, "facts don't require your approval to be true." Please listen to the facts and data regarding this topic.

Here are the data:

1. Providing housing first paves the way for other improvements in a person's life. Studies are clear: once someone has a steady address and safe/secure place to exist, all other outcomes (such as health and employment) also get better.
2. Substance abuse is a medical disorder. We need to recognize it as such. It is NOT a moral failure. We wouldn't require someone with diabetes to get their blood sugar levels steady as a condition of housing. That would be ridiculous. In the same manner, we shouldn't force as a condition that someone be in drug treatment.
3. Studies show that forcing or coercing people with addiction into treatment isn't very effective. As fiscal conservatives, I'm sure you will agree you want the best outcomes that are most cost effective. Simply put, requiring drug treatment when someone isn't ready is a waste of money and time. People are much more successful when they willingly enter into treatment.
4. We can't legislate and arrest our way out of any of these shelter or addiction challenges. Snohomish County has tried the "change their hearts and minds" approach. We

repeatedly have criminalized poverty. It hasn't worked and those experiments need to end. It's time to address housing and substance use disorders with compassion, empathy, and our wallets. Instead of spending money to house people in jails, we can get a far better rate of return by providing bridge and supportive housing.

5. Accountability is inherently built into these projects through the embedded services. We don't need required treatment to have accountability.
6. During the 1590 hearings, two Councilmembers kept asking for "guarantees" that by having the tax funds the programs will work. It is great that you truly want to see this issue resolved. The tough reality is that the amount of funding provided through 1590 is a drop in the bucket compared to the backlog of need we haven't addressed. Snohomish County has one of the highest banked property tax rates. Council has repeatedly put off raising taxes (ie- funds) to address these issues and our County budgets for services on a per capita basis continues to shrink. At some point, the consequences and bill for deferred maintenance and lack of investment in forward thinking and planning will be due. Housing is one small indicator of this, and will continue to get worse if we don't address the problems our generation and the previous one have created by failing to adequately fund social service programs.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for being the courageous leaders we need to act now to address this challenge.

Sincerely,
Kristen Holdsworth, AICP

Kristen Holdsworth, AICP

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Tana Axtelle](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Support motion 22-330
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:20:29 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-11
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Council members,

I am writing you to express my support of purchase of local hotels to provide bridge housing for people experiencing homelessness. I oppose the proposal to require individuals with substance use disorder to seek treatment before being allowed housing in these facilities. We should be providing housing first and then addressing what issues the individual has. Most of the people requiring housing will not have resources to seek treatment. People need stable housing in place to be successful in recovery. Please support Motion 22-330.

Thank you,
Tana Axtelle
Edmonds

Sent from my iPad Sent from my iPad

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Kent Ellefson](#)
To: [Wiita, Russell](#)
Subject: Re: Wednesday homeless meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:56:01 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-12
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Russell:

I was on the webcast, but unfortunately when my time to speak came (lfson) my computer would not transfer my voice. attempted to unmute, but selecting the icon several times was unsuccessful.

If you could forward my comments to the council, it would be appreciated.

1. My name is Kent Ellefsoon
2. I live in Snohomish County
3. I have 10 years of undergraduate and graduate university education. Several degrees including one in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacist)
4. I lived for over 10 years with an addictive parent, from age 10 until I left for college at age 20
5. My parent "kicked" her addiction every year starting about a week before Thanksgiving and stayed "sopor" until just after Christmas. This continued until her death, over 35 years
6. Addiction is not a problem of the homeless, it is a symptom. Drug abuse is the problem. First comes the substance abuse then comes the addiction, as a result of the abuse
7. While in Pharmacy School, the local state run mental hospital, who handled those with mental problems and substance abuse, let us know that they believed that ethyl alcohol was the most addicting street drug, more so than opiates, amphetamines, cocaine, etc.

- A. I believe that treatment of addiction is totally useless, useless one first identifies the cause for why the person takes mind altering drugs.
- B. Unless a person truly wants help, he will just use the system. Government housing has never helped, just look at the public housing created in the past 50-60 years.
- C. Homelessness CAN NOT EVER BE SOLVED, just attempted. There are those who are homeless because that chose that lifestyle. They are in the great minority, but they are there.
- D. Homeless should be worked upon by helping those;
 - a. are homeless through no fault of their own, lost job, health, etc.
 - b. are willing to help identify why they abuse substances, then work to get off of them
 - c. attempting to help those who do not want to be helped is a losing battle.
- E. The hotel purchases are good ideas, but those in residence must not use them for any illicit use.
- F. The non-substance abuser should be separated from those who are there due to mental or substance abuse

In conclusion, I believe that those who want help will first not need the substance abuse intervention, those who have had substance abuse problems and do not want to straighten out their life with medical intervention, are not really wanting anything but a free bed to act as before. I totally support the requirement for treatment as a term to use the hotel. If they do not want treatment, they really are not looking to get out of their present situation.

Kent Ellefson
31210 N Brooks Creek Rd
Arlington, WA 98223
425 241-3877

LFSON72@YAHOO.COM

On Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 12:28:58 PM PDT, Wiita, Russell <russell.wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us> wrote:

Hi Kent,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your thoughts and experiences regarding homelessness and addiction. We appreciate you sharing this perspective.

Our approach has always been one rooted in compassion and achieving positive results for the individuals participating in County programs. Without a certain level of accountability, folks that are chronically addicted will not get better. Identifying the underlying causes of their addiction and homelessness is critical. We have been supportive of the wrap-around services to make sure that these issues are properly identified and treated.

If you are able to provide testimony tomorrow morning, that would be great. If you are having difficulties with Zoom, you can call this number: (253) 215 8782 and when prompted, enter the following meeting ID: 948 4685 0772. Once you are in the meeting, press *9 to digitally raise your hand. You will be called on based on your phone number if you choose to call in rather than using Zoom.

Please let me know if I can help in any other way. Thanks again for reaching out.

Sincerely,

Russell Wiita

Legislative Aide to Councilman Nate Nehring

District 1

Snohomish County Council



3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609

Everett, WA 98201-4046

425-626-4173 | Russell.Wiita@snoco.org

From: [Joseph Alonzo](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Hotel Purchase
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:56:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT # PT-13

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Council,

I witnessed the public comment on today's council meeting, and appreciate the views and input from all. However, I want to speak in strong and active support that the Council moves forward with the use of ARPA funds to purchase the hotels for emergency bridge housing using a housing first model. It bears repeating that recovery, stability, and ultimately goal attainment can ONLY occur once basic secure housing is accessible. While I understand the intent, the population we are trying to serve will not be served with putting sobriety or treatment requirements as a stipulation of access. Please trust the Human Services staff and non profit organizational experts to put into place services and programs that truly and effectively support the continued progress of a resident AFTER they've been given access to a hotel unit.

Please do not delay these property acquisitions using available ARPA funds. Please instead trust that this community has the will and expertise to prove successful outcomes for so many homeless neighbors who, without this immediate opportunity, would remain on the streets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Alonzo

Joseph Alonzo

CEO

Cocoon House

Pronouns: he/him/his

Office: 425.259.3184

Email: joseph.alonzo@cocoonhouse.org

Cocoon House empowers young people, families, and the community to break the cycle of homelessness through outreach, housing and prevention.

Your [support](#) will have a lasting, positive impact on the lives of teens and families. Visit our website at www.cocoonhouse.org

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Connect with us:



From: [ed_edp](#)
To: [Wiita, Russell](#)
Subject: Check out this school for homeless kids in Oklahoma
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:59:27 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-14
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Big picture thinking!

Check out this school for homeless kids in Oklahoma
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=128657022445355>

We are asking the County Council to delay the vote on purchasing the hotels until the ordinance can be considered. In our opinion, it is critical to have accountability built into these programs. Requiring drug treatment will help these individuals get better and become more productive members of society rather than warehousing them in a hotel so that they are out of sight.

The state has failed enormously with kids getting booted out of the foster care system at age 18, and they do not have their high school diploma. YET, they are eligible to still attend high school till age 21!! None of this makes sense to those who want success achieved with our tax dollars that have sky rocketed!

Please get this right! Success on multiple fronts is necessary!

Shelley Droz
property tax payer

Reposting because this is important:

Last week, County Executive Dave Somers proposed the purchase of the Days Inn in Everett for homeless housing. This week, he announced the

purchase of a second hotel in Edmonds to be used for the same purpose.

The vote on both purchases is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17th at 9:00 AM at the County Council's General Legislative Session.

Councilmember Nehring has introduced an ordinance that would require participants in county-owned hotel shelters to participate in chemical dependency treatment if they have a substance use disorder (drug or alcohol addiction).

We are asking the County Council to delay the vote on purchasing the hotels until the ordinance can be considered. In our opinion, it is critical to have accountability built into these programs. Requiring drug treatment will help these individuals get better and become more productive members of society rather than warehousing them in a hotel so that they

are out of sight.

If you agree, please join the meeting on Wednesday using this Zoom link (or attend in person in the Jackson Board Room, 3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett, WA 98201 – 8th Floor). The meeting starts at 9:00 AM and public comment is one of the first agenda items. If you attend virtually, you will need to click "raise hand" to indicate your interest in providing public comment.

Please let Councilmember Nehring or I know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Russell Wiita

Legislative Aide to Councilman Nate Nehring

District 1

Snohomish County Council

3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609

Everett, WA 98201-4046

425-626-4173 | Russell.Wiita@snoco.org

From: [Sharon Damoff](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Please collect data from homeless hotels
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:10:47 PM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Councilmembers,

I listened and spoke at this morning's meeting. About half of the public speakers claimed the Housing First model works, and about half of us thought agreeing to treatment should be a requirement of residency because housing addicts in the same building as moms and kids seems like a terrible plan.

The county will now have the chance to find out if Housing First works. As suggested by a councilmember (Councilmember Mead, I believe, though it was hard to tell on the tiny screen), the county should keep thorough data. Then we will know for sure.

Data that should be kept (at a minimum; other info would be useful too)

- Names of residents admitted
- Length of stay
- How many get treatment for addiction or mental illness
- How many get clean, get jobs, and move out
- Deaths in or near the facility, with cause of death listed
- Detailed list of crimes committed on the facility grounds (don't cover up assaults, etc!)
- Crimes committed within a few blocks of the facility
- Change in rate of crime in the area
- An accurate accounting of how much it is costing taxpayers per resident once you add in maintenance, operations, management, security, treatment, cleanup--all costs associated with the facility--divided by the number of residents in a year. We need an accurate account of how much is spent and how many people are served.

I personally think the Housing First model is just enabling, but I would be happy to be proved wrong by thorough, demonstrated data from these two county facilities, rather than the vague, wishful-thinking claims we heard today.

It would be great to get regular reports.

Thank you,
Sharon Damoff
Mukilteo

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Graham Link](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Housing first approach
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:43:59 PM

EXHIBIT # PT-16
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Council members-

I just want to congratulate you on the hotel purchases. I believe the quote from the Everett herald was ...

"Snohomish County is following in King County's footsteps"...

Well done. Kudos.

In all seriousness, when you read that statement in the herald, it should sound like an insult to this plan/approach. Have any one of you visited king county lately? I understand this is a difficult and nuanced problem; following in king counties foot steps for this problem seems insane considering the results.

It doesn't take the "studies" referenced in the article to see how well king county has handled the issue- it's an unmitigated disaster. And so Snohomish council members, instead of attempting to find a real solution to a crisis of epic proportions (mental health/drug addiction), just said... "let's do what king county does."

I see two members voted for delay to mandate treatment. Thank you two those two for recognizing these people aren't on the street due to lack of beds. But rather a debilitating addiction or mental health.

Sincerely,

Soon to be former Snoco taxpayer Graham Link

Sent from my iPhone

From: Susan N <snorthrop@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:24 PM
To: Contact Council <Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Cc: Wiita, Russell <Russell.Wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Subject: Ordinance 22-033

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT # PT-17

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hi

I would like to provide testimony for Nate Nehring's ordinance that would require treatment for substance use disorder as a requirement for county hotel housing.

I have lived in Snohomish County for 50 years and Everett has been a part of my life for most of it. A few years ago, we purchased a condo on Colby Ave, which my daughter rented from us while she worked as a therapist for various social service programs in Everett. Late last year she accepted a job in another state for reasons similar to my testimony. Because we sold our main home a year ago and are in the process of determining if we want to live in Arizona full time or Washington, we decided to dwell in the Colby Ave condo for this summer.

What we have witnessed in the past few months has been nothing less than horrifying. Being an avid runner and walker, I probably walk/run an average of 6 miles every day on the streets of Everett. In addition to that we have 2 balconies facing Colby and another side street with a bird's eye view of the neighborhood. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that there is not ONE SINGLE day that goes by without seeing open air drug use-most days it is many, many times. Also, there is not ONE SINGLE night that goes by where we do not hear a severely mentally ill human being walking past on the street screaming for help.

We call 911 in many cases, but the Everett police officers that we have talked to are frustrated and admit that for the most part they cannot do much about the drug use due to new WA state rules. I spend enough time on these streets to know that this is NOT a shelter problem. This is clearly a drug problem. If the drug problem is not addressed in a swift and serious way, you can buy a million hotels and you will not have solved the problem.

Let me give you just the most recent example from just this morning at my condo:

I heard some voices in our parking lot and see a man and woman in their 20s or 30s with sleeping bags and backpacks. As I watch and listen to them it is clear what is about to happen. The man tells the woman to "wait here with our stuff" and he runs up the street. While he is gone the woman uses the bathroom right in the parking lot and then proceeds to change her clothes and throw garbage in the bushes. 10 minutes later, the man shows up and they sit together in my neighbor's parking spot and methodically open up little bags of drug paraphernalia pulling out foil, lighters and straws/tubes. They start smoking. Right in the parking spot. Silently. This is not a joyful ritual- it is one that their addicted souls desperately need, and nothing is going to stop them from doing it. Nothing. Including a hotel room.

After about 15 minutes of continued smoking and watching the woman's head start to hang lower and lower, I finally call 911. To my surprise an officer called me back 10 minutes later and asked if they were still there. They were and they were still smoking every last bit of heroin (or something similar) that they can scrape up. When the officer arrived, they didn't even flinch as they kept smoking. I think they finally stopped as he came closer to them and started talking, but they clearly had no fear in the slightest of being arrested. He told them to move on and left. They spent 45 minutes carefully packing up their drug paraphernalia, which was obviously the most precious thing that they owned. After throwing some more garbage in our bushes they pulled out a bottle of wine and shuffled on.

These people need help. And so many people just like them that I see daily on the streets of Everett need help. Simply housing these people without a requirement for treatment is just plain **lazy and cruel**. I understand that some county leaders would much rather have these people die of overdoses in a hotel rather than the streets where people can see, but that is just a very sad and sinister policy.

Housing First has been a colossal disaster in many big cities including LA, San Francisco and here in Seattle. If the board members who are for low (or no) barrier housing have some convincing data that would convince the citizens of Snohomish County that housing without treatment requirements is in the best interest of these addicted souls, they need to provide it. Real data- not theories. And not cherry-picked data.

These people are sons, daughters, parents, sisters, brothers. **They are human beings who deserve more than being swept under the rug.**

Please consider this ordinance.

Thankyou

Susan N.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: valentinegb@frontier.com <valentinegb@frontier.com>

Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 2:11 PM

To: Contact Council <Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us>

Subject: Everett Herald Article ---- Hotel Shelter Purchase

EXHIBIT # PT-18

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Greetings: I read the above article and assuming the contents of the article are accurate I would like to make the following comments.

#1 I agree with Mr Low and Mr Nehring's viewpoints. I see the illegal use of drugs as being more of an economic condition rather than a medical. I believe if the risk/reward ratio is tilted to the reward the illegal behavior will always increase wherever illegal action is taking place. I think this is common sense. For example, the theft of catalytic converters does not take place in daylight in someones yard while the vehicle owner is home. but rather wherever the risk is lowest in the mind of the thief.

#2 Where and when are State Sales Taxes collected from the vendors of drugs? If I sell something on the internet through a third party vendor and in or out of State I now have to collect through the third party State Sales Tax on the transaction . How much tax does Snohomish County recieve on Illegal drug sales? I have never heard of any collected.

#3 The argument about insulin usage for diabetis requirement for housing is simplistic at best. I was amazed to read the comment. The insulin dependent is not using illegal drugs, at least I think not. This is a medical condition aquired either through a genetic malfunction or self neglect. Self neglect does not mean one is addicted to a drug. No-one is vending illegal options I am aware of.

#4 I only see or know of a few people who go out and pick up garbage along a roadway. why? The risk of vehicle damage to the body increases if one chooses to partake in the adventure and the reward is only in the mind of the participant. Hence, one most always sees garbage along the roadway where the interest in the reward is highest and the illegal risk is lowest, I think I can fairly say this can also happen if one is diabetic or not. Will the same thing occur with the proposed housing and no rules. Absolutely I have no doubt.

#5 Who will oversee the housing? If it comes under Mr. Leonard's jurisdiction I see no way the estimated costs will be accurate. I had questions of the prior Whispering Pines debacle which I sent to his office and based on the answers provided it seems to me the blind were leading the blind so to speak.

Thank you for your time.

George B Valentine
23308 Old Owen Road
Monroe 98272

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT # PT-19

FILE ORD 22-033

From: Mark Smith <mark@housingsnohomish.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 10:31 AM

To: Dunn, Megan <Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Mead, Jared <Jared.Mead@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Wright, Stephanie <Stephanie.Wright@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Nehring, Nate <nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Low, Sam <Sam.Low@co.snohomish.wa.us>

Cc: Contact Council <Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us>

Subject: Ordinance 22-030 Comments

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Please see the attached.

Best regards,

Mark Smith
Executive Director
Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County
425-339-1015 / mark@housingsnohomish.org
<https://www.housingsnohomish.org>
PO Box 1326, Everett, WA 98206

Please note that the Consortium's hours are M-Th, 7:30am-6:00pm



Housing Consortium of Everett & Snohomish County

PO Box 1326

Everett, WA 98037

425-339-1015

mark@housingsnohomish.org

www.housingsnohomish.org

August 23, 2022

I am writing in opposition to ordinance 22-033 which would require residents with a substance use disorder to participate in chemical dependency treatment services.

This requirement flies in the face of the reason for acquiring the two properties approved by the County Council last week: Getting people off the streets. Why on earth would the County spend millions of dollars to house people and then put up an obstacle to that very housing?

It is discriminatory against people who are suffering from addiction, a medical condition, which is best treated after people are off the street and stably housed.

Imposing this requirement is like requiring an overweight person to enroll in Jennie Craig before they can have housing. Or requiring an unemployed person to enroll in job skills training in order to get off the street. Or requiring a diabetic to get their blood sugar under control while living on the street before they can be housed. We could impose any number of restrictions for any number of conditions but we don't.

We don't do this because we know that for many people, especially the chronically homeless whom this emergency bridge housing is intended to help, Treatment First simply doesn't work.

What works is Housing First with wrap around services that are available when people are ready to use them.

Housing First is a proven model for addressing homelessness that prioritizes access to permanent, stable housing, linked with voluntary services as needed. Housing First recognizes that stable housing is a prerequisite for effective psychiatric and substance abuse treatment and for improving quality of life. Once stably housed, individuals are better able to take advantage of wrap-around services – to help support housing stability, employment, and recovery. Without stable housing, attaining these goals becomes much more difficult.

Plainly speaking, we are all better off, the homeless, our downtowns, our neighborhoods, when the homeless are housed. Housing First is the model that accomplishes this most successfully for the chronically homeless.

Please vote no on ordinance 22-033

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Smith".

Executive Director

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT # PT-20

FILE ORD 22-033

From: hbargreen@aol.com
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Ordinance. 22-033
Date: Thursday, September 1, 2022 10:04:36 AM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Snohomosh County Council,

Please help the homeless in all of our County by forcing more rehabilitation. If you help the homeless with housing, and not with rehabilitation, you are sort of making these homeless into slaves of your money, and in effect, your become the slave owners.

Howie Bargreen

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Brett Kinney](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Ordinance 22-033
Date: Thursday, September 1, 2022 10:35:30 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-xritneje.png](#)
[Outlook-5pvi1hcd.png](#)
[Outlook-e5dphmoh.png](#)
[Outlook-yu4odrzn.png](#)
[Outlook-v2tzhau.png](#)
[Outlook-piztpowq.png](#)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT # PT-21

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear County Council,

I am a small business owner in the Smokey Point/Arlington area. Daily we experience the affects of drug addiction and homelessness at our business and on our property surrounding our business. Although there are plenty of services available and the social services and Police are regularly called out to our location to remove attempts to encamp on our property, there does not seem to be any motivation by the individuals to make changes.

I do appreciate the attempt by the council to provide housing for these individuals, I do not believe this will change their addictive habits. There needs to be some accountability tied to the opportunity to stop living on the streets. Councilman Nehrings proposed ordinance needs to seriously considered and adopted.

Best Regards,



Brett Kinney
CEO/Owner
ARCpoint Labs of Marysville-Arlington
ARCpoint Labs of Bellingham
Marysville-Arlington Office: 360-322-7626
Bellingham Office: 360-922-0275
C:425-344-8300
Fax: 360-925-3479
Email: bkkinney@arcpointlabs.com
17306 Smokey Point Drive Suite 21, Arlington WA
98223

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: j.paul.williams@hotmail.com
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Regarding Housing for Homeless
Date: Thursday, September 1, 2022 11:42:18 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-22
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

I have received newsletters from three of the five county council members in the last couple of days. In all three, mention was made of spending millions of taxpayer dollars for hotels to house the homeless, and to provide "wraparound services" for the tenants.

I am utterly OPPOSED to such a plan, and to such spending unless a comprehensive plan is made to DEAL WITH THE ROOT CAUSES of homelessness. So-called wraparound services do not work. Implicit in both drug addiction and mental illness are the refusal or inability to seek help to end either addiction or mental illness.

While Mr. Nehring's proposed ordinance is a good first step (and thus something I support wholeheartedly), you need a similar ordinance to address the mentally ill.

I suspect that you believe such an ordinance will make potential tenants unwilling to use the provided housing. And I suspect you're right. BUT if all you intend to accomplish by providing housing is to remove the eyesore of homeless camps from our streets, then you're not accomplishing ANYTHING meaningful; you're just putting lipstick on the pig.

Why not spend the money - MY money, and money of every taxpaying citizen in this county - on something that will actually work? i.e., use existing laws to detain and treat both drug addicts and mentally ill people. If you don't, you're as much a part of the problem as the guy who commits crimes to support his habit, or the guy who stands on street corners, peeing in the gutter while screaming obscenities at passers-by. When they're done, you've provided them with a nice, warm burrow to hide in, but nothing else. Meanwhile, those of us who're paying the rent get NOTHING of value in return.

If you really care about the people you're supposed to represent, do something useful with our tax dollars.

James Paul Williams
7426 197th St SE
Snohomish, Wa 98296
425 260 2331

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [joan dufresne](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: hotel purchase to address homelessness
Date: Thursday, September 1, 2022 4:05:01 PM

EXHIBIT # PT-23
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

to Snohomish County Council Members;

Do NOT admit people to your hotel unless they have agreed to kick drugs.

I speak from experience. My son was a meth addict for 20 years. He has been drug free for almost 15 years. (I know because he has worked these last years for an industry with a random drug testing policy.)

He credits our part in his healing to our zero tolerance policy - NO DRUGS, and NO THUGS.

I advise Snohomish County to do the same.

Joan R. Dufresne

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Lisa Bender](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Ordinance 22-033
Date: Friday, September 2, 2022 9:55:18 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-24
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello -

I understand that in October there will be a public hearing regarding an ordinance to require drug treatment for people using county purchased hotels, paid for by the tax payers.

I would like to say that I whole-heartedly agree with this approach. If someone is suffering from addiction and homelessness, the path to getting them out of the addictive cycle is not simply to move their drug use off the street and into a hotel room -- it is to give them the tools they need to escape the addiction.

My observation is that the softer the approach to drug use, the more drug use there is. They say the "war on drugs" was a failure, but looking at the level of homelessness and how disgusting Seattle has become, I think the "compassionate" approach is even worse. How is it compassionate to let people slowly kill themselves?

I do support the idea of having bridge housing so that someone that wants to escape addiction has a safe place where they can shower, cook, etc as they move from addiction to freedom.

And, I say all of this having had addicted people close to me pass away due to their addiction. We, as a society, must be careful to not enable people right into the grave.

Lisa Bender

Clearview Resident

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Rick Rice](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Cc: [Nehring, Nate](#)
Subject: Ordinance 22-033
Date: Sunday, September 4, 2022 4:11:01 PM

EXHIBIT # PT-25

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Council members,

I am writing in support of Councilman Nehrings proposed Ordinance 22-033. I fully support legislation to ensure that drug/alcohol treatment is a residency requirement at the homeless hotel. Making these services "available" does not mean they are mandatory. I can only imagine that many homeless will refuse such services only to continue with their addictions that made them homeless in the first place! Homeless hotels should not become drug dens! Most homeless become homeless because of drugs/alcohol. I would go further with the Ordinance and say that drugs/alcohol are prohibited on the hotel grounds and premises. I would also include a three-strikes rule in the Ordinance whereby any resident found in possession of drugs/alcohol shall no longer be eligible to reside there. In my opinion, homeless hotels should be temporary and transitional in order to get the homeless cleaned up and ready to get back in the workforce supporting themselves.

Sincerely,

Rick Rice
Council District 1 resident

From: [Craig Purfeerst](#)
To: [Nehring, Nate](#)
Cc: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Hotel purchase & drug treatment ordinance
Date: Sunday, September 4, 2022 9:54:20 PM

EXHIBIT # PT-26

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello Nate,

Would like you to know that I totally support having an ordinance requiring mandatory drug treatment for addicts moving in to county-owned hotels.

If there are real estate agents writing the purchase contracts for the county I would certainly hope they would donate any commissions towards recovery programs for those addicted to substance abuses.

Cheers to You for helping those that need help!

~Craig

Craig Purfeerst

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Dennis Dilday](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Hotels for the Homeless
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 8:54:24 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-27

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

From Councilmember Nate Nehring's newsletter:

"... I introduced an ordinance to require drug treatment for residents of county-owned hotels if they are struggling with a drug addiction. This requirement would ensure that individuals living in taxpayer-funded housing begin the journey to become free from their addiction and lead more positive and healthier lives. Addiction is both a cause and a symptom of homelessness and cannot be ignored.

While proponents of the hotel purchases insist that treatment and wrap-around services will be available, I do not believe that goes far enough. We know from experience that individuals suffering from alcohol or drug addiction often times need a "tough love" approach before they seek treatment and a better path. My ordinance would help create that incentive to get better. "

I fully support the drug treatment requirement, for all the reasons stated here. It is the best of a bunch of bad choices addressing the mess we are in.

Dennis Dilday, D.C.

Dennis Dilday, D.C.
Everett Chiropractic Center
Health - Naturally, through Chiropractic, Fitness & Whole-Food Nutrition
8625 Evergreen Way, #210
Everett, WA 98203
(425) 348-5207
<http://www.doctordilday.com>
dennis@doctordilday.com

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT # PT-28

FILE ORD 22-033

From: [Julie Willie](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Cc: [CFranklin](#); [Nick Harper](#); [Dan Templeman](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Treatment as a condition of being given shelter in county-funded housing for homeless individuals- Ordinance 22-033
Date: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:03:55 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Snohomish County Council Members,

On behalf of Mayor Franklin, Deputy Mayor Nick Harper, Chief of Police Dan Templeman and myself, the City of Everett continues to be very supportive of the County's decision to purchase a motel in Everett to use as non-congregate shelter for the increased number of individuals and families who are currently living unsheltered.

We recognize that for many of the visually homeless individuals we see who are negatively impacting our community are suffering with multiple behavior health challenges, and for many substance use treatment may be a much needed tool to help them find stability. We also recognize that not all homeless individuals are sickened by addiction, but rather experience homelessness due to fleeing violence or being priced out of their affordable housing- without a safety net to catch them.

We are working with the County in good-faith that the County human services team will understand and mitigate any challenges that the new shelter may bring the surrounding Everett community. We anticipate they will implement the necessary security, safety and sanitation plans and will present a defined management plan that will set forth the clear behavior expectations and consequences if they are not met. We also trust that a service delivery plan will be included to meet the needs of the individuals who are in the shelter, including case management and navigation, access to mental health and substance use treatment, access to medical care, opportunities for life skills development and pathways to permanent housing and income.

However, the City does not support creating rules that mandate treatment in order to enter a county funded shelter, as this will leave more individuals and families on our streets, and more challenges for our City to address. We are concerned of the lack of available detox and treatment beds which will delay shelter being accessible. Timelines may not align for when a person needs shelter and when treatment is open, adding more barriers and possible setbacks.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Willie

Director | Community Development Division
425.257.7120 office | 425.275.1378 mobile/ text
2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 10A, Everett, WA 98201
everettwa.gov | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Melinda MacFarland](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Cc: [Witta, Russell](#); [Nehring, Nate](#)
Subject: Public Hearing on Drug Treatment Ordinance
Date: Monday, October 17, 2022 9:29:13 PM

EXHIBIT # PT-29
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Council Members,

I hope by following Nate's suggestion, these drug addicted individuals (that are being given housing), will be appreciative & respectful of what they're being offered by our generous cities - free housing. One way to make sure they follow the rules of being a good citizen is having them enroll in a drug treatment program along w/going thru counseling & eventually job training. It's obvious they need the help, & we will show them the help.
How else is this going to last if we don't have them get into a treatment program?

I agree with what Nate has suggested. In order to live in these hotels, these homeless individuals must stay in rehab & counseling or lose these benefits.

Like a teenager that has to earn part of the \$ for his own car, u find that overall, teens have more respect for their car & themselves plus take more responsibility in driving it/caring for it, vs teens that are just given a new car by their parents. Make em' earn it!

Best regards,
Melinda & Scott MacFarland
Mukilteo

Melinda
melinda.macfarland@gmail.com

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Jayne Gracom](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Ordinance 22-033
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 9:06:40 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-30
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I agree on this common sense approach to helping residents addicted to drugs. Speaking as a professional nurse this ordinance will help to slow down the decline and decay of human life if addicted to illegal drugs. It will give them "hope" and accountability as well. The residents need to be in a drug rehabilitation program in order to live in the County bought hotels. I am in total favor for this new ordinance to be adopted.

Thank you,

Jayne Gracom R.N.
[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Donna Vago](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Cc: [Nehring, Nate](#); [Wiita, Russell](#)
Subject: In Support of Ord. 22-033
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 9:58:13 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-31
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Re: Testimony in Support of Ord. 22-033/Nate Nehring -Drug treatment programs requirement for housing

To: Snohomish County Council
From: Donna Vago, Mukilteo resident
d.vago@frontier.com

Cities like Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles have provided housing using no preconditions with their "Housing First" policy. The basic idea is that homelessness is fundamentally a housing problem and housing is the solution to homelessness.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has spent billions over the past twenty years on "Housing First" programs. These programs to build more housing are plagued by constructions delays, cost overruns and corruption, yet have not even made a dent in the problem.

Even in cities that spent the most money, Seattle among them, failed to reduce the overall rates of homelessness. The Housing First policy failed not due to a lack of money, but due to policy failure.

What have these cities got wrong? The problem has been misdiagnosed by policymakers and consequently applied the wrong solution. They failed to take into account the most dominate causes of homelessness are drug addiction and mental illness. Addicts are more likely to commit crimes to support addictions. Without legitimate income most addicts support their habit through theft, fraud, prostitution and property crime and inevitably become subjects of pimps and drug dealers.

The biggest policy failure of Housing First is it does not address the problems of addiction, mental illness and depression. According to a wide range of studies Housing First policy does nothing to reduce psychiatric symptoms, reduce drug consumption or prevent overdose deaths. A recent study in Ottawa, Canada reported Housing First participants were five times more likely to die than a control group that were left on the streets. In other words, the Housing First policy, in spite of the enormous amounts of monies spent, provided worse outcomes than doing nothing.

If something isn't working, change it. Doubling down on a failed policy or following the status quo will not lead to a reduction of homelessness, it will not address the biggest problems homeless people face, drug addiction and mental illness. In Seattle the homeless industrial complex spends nearly \$80,000 per homeless person per year and has failed to reduce the number of people on the street. Seattle also spends \$1 billion a year on the humanitarian crisis and it's getting worse. Obviously their policy is not working to help the homeless population.

The system often speaks of compassion toward the homeless. What have been the outcomes of their policy so far? Continuing to follow a failed policy creates a system of enormous cruelty and personal despair. By not addressing the drug and mental health issues there is no path to recovery, accountability or a structured life. If a policy fails, change the policy, change the outcome.

Should we want to change homelessness through governance the failed policy of Housing First must be set aside to make way for policy oriented toward recovery, accountability and a structured life.

Donna Vago
d.vago@frontier.com
Mukilteo resident

Cc: Nate Nehring, Russell Wiita

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Gwen Lewis](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Ordinance 22-033 Please require drug treatment
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:04:52 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-32
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Please Please it is critical to the safety of all of the residents of Edmonds that the individuals moving into the hotel on Highway 99 in Edmonds be assured that the new residents will be required to either not be doing drugs or ACCEPT and participate in a drug treatment program. Drugs being crime and we are trying to improve the surrounding area near the hotel rather than increase crime such as stealing to buy drugs. Gwen Lewis, resident of Edmonds since 1976.

From: [Tracy M. Heims](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Hotel Purchases
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:17:09 AM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed new homeless Shelters in Edmonds and in Everett.

According to reports that I have seen, these hotels are described as: “They’ll be low-barrier housing, without County Councilman Nate Nehring’s proposed requirement that anyone diagnosed with drug addiction must enroll into mandatory drug treatment to stay in one of the county-funded hotel rooms.”

Arguments for the housing include: “Not every person with a drug addiction might accept choosing treatment versus being homeless or taking shelter elsewhere.”

That is true. However, I know at least one drug addict who chose the street over treatment. I truly do not expect to see her alive again. She ran from treatment and is now “lost”. Tough love is the only answer for a drug addict. I support Mr. Nehring’s proposed requirement for mandatory drug treatment. I would even support holding drug addicts against their will until they are clean. Addicts do not make good choices when using. Even with the requirement there is a high risk of failure but without it you simply provide a place to use and to continue a downward spiral. We need to learn from Seattle and not make the same mistakes.

Sincerely,



Tracy M Heims
Attorney
Apex Juris, PLLC

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Susan N](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Cc: [Witta, Russell](#)
Subject: Testimony of Ordinance 22-033 for 10.19.22 meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 11:14:04 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-34

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello

I would like to provide testimony for Ordinance 22-033 requiring drug treatment as a requirement for addicts residing at county owned hotels.

In my earlier testimony I described the devastation that the current drug epidemic has done to the streets of Everett. I used an example of an open air drug incident that had just happened in my parking lot involving a couple of long time users and the lack of trying to hide what they were doing. I can consistently pick almost any day that I am in town and walking around the streets of Everett and describe something disturbing that is usually related to substance abuse. Here is my experience from last evening:

Since my husband and I will be leaving town this week to take a break from Everett and spend some time in the SW, yesterday evening was probably the last time we could walk from our Colby Ave residence to the waterfront to watch the sunset. Everett was beautiful with its wonderful historic houses, stunning trees and crunchy leaves on the sidewalks. However this is also what we encountered - and I am sure I am missing some.

- 1-Woman passed out on her steering wheel on Grand Ave.
- 2-Man sitting on a curb on Rucker getting fumbling around with his drug paraphernalia
- 3-4 people screaming at each other in front of the Salvation Army and across the intersection
- 4-Urine soaked humans passed out on Rucker, Colby and Hoyt
- 5-Woman (shriveled from years of drug use) walking right into traffic from the Midnight Grocery- cars honked and she didn't even flinch
- 6-Woman on Colby across from the Key Bank building wearing almost no clothes and swaying back and forth mumbling the same thing over and over
- 7-The usual gang of 5 or 6 at the 7-11 openly dealing drugs without trying even a tiny bit to hide it
- 8- Man near the bus stop on Pacific and Colby screaming that he wants to kill everybody

THIS IS NOT an exaggeration- it happens every single day. As a not terribly large woman in her 50s, I really do think twice every time I decide to walk in Everett by myself. It is the reason that we are spending less and less time here and thinking about leaving permanently. The other thing I notice when walking the streets is the massive volume of For Lease signs downtown. Why would any business want to move here? I have talked to many people who truly feel trapped in their houses as they feel that they can't walk the streets here. At many times **there are more mentally ill/addicted people on the streets than those who are not.** This is a key point- as bad as cities like Seattle and San Francisco are, the RATIO of mentally ill in Everett makes it more detrimental to Everett's overall health.

The Housing First advocates want to deny the fact that the majority of homeless are substance abusers and they use shaky studies to do so. I invite them to walk the streets for a couple hours. I also would plead with the Housing First people to PLEASE look at ALL of the data. It is very clear that the more money that is spent on housing in these problem cities the worse the problem is getting.

The vast majority of homeless in the Everett area have a serious medical problem that needs to be addressed. Simply giving them a shelter is not going to cure that medical problem and those who advocate for that are either naive or corrupt. In either case, they are hurting the very people that they claim to want to help. "They will get help when they are ready" is denying science when talking about hard drugs that have taken over the bodies of these beautiful souls that have been ravaged by addiction.

Please consider this ordinance and even more importantly, a deep and **transparent** audit of **every single penny** that is spent on the homeless issue. In my opinion, we are in a state of emergency that is very likely fueled by dangerously addictive drugs (Meth, Fentanyl, Heroin) and we need to determine if the massive dollars being spent on this problem is helping or making it worse.

Thanks for your time
S. Northrop

From: [ashvin sanghvi](#)
To: [Contact Council](#); [Wiita, Russell](#); [Nehring, Nate](#)
Cc: [Gauri Sanghvi](#)
Subject: Ordinance 22-033 - "Requiring drug treatment for residents of county owned hotels"
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 11:28:25 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-35

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Council Members ,

Gauri and I are residents of Mukilteo in the Snohomish county and are writing to you to express our concerns around boarding drug addicted homeless people in the county run hotels converted for the said purpose and **in support of Ordinance 22-033 proposed by Councilman Nate Nehring**

A shelter of this sort is invaluable in getting people who want to stand up on their own two feet , to get there as soon as possible. A place to keep your belongings, a place where a child will be safe and a place to shower and get cleaned up is amazing at helping people muster up the courage to face the world, find work and have the confidence to get back to a more sustainable emotional , physical and financial health.

However, the presence of other addicts, the temptation and or fear that it generates is completely counter productive to that goal. If a person needs mental health or other services to recover from drug addiction, they should not be co-habiting the same facilities with the other people who are not.

We are quite familiar with what some of these addicts on the streets of the county, right now, are capable of. They can light buildings on fire, defecate in public, act lewdly and even attack with deadly weapons. You have probably seen it for yourself.

Please take this into account as you vote and don't hide behind excuses like you cannot test them. If you decide to vote against the ordinance, please be transparent about how you are going maintain safety and hygiene in these facilities 7x24 and what it would cost the tax payer over 20 years.

Without this ordinance, this is just an accident waiting to happen. And when it does, the public and press will tie it directly back to the councilmen and women who voted against the ordinance

Ashvin and Gauri Sanghvi
Mukilteo, WA 98275

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Elizabeth Mitchell](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment 10/19 Council Meeting re Proposed Ordinance 22-033
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 4:27:41 PM

EXHIBIT # PT-36

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

To the Council,

I am concerned that Proposed Ordinance 22-033 mandates treatment as a condition for shelter. This not only takes decisions away from those contracted to supply services, but at the same time exacerbates a political polarization of Housing First vs Treatment First.

I am a layperson and don't pretend to know the answer to the homelessness dilemma. I know that most of us with houses want to see homeless people housed for a variety of reasons which might be humanitarian, safety, business or hygiene related.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration offers some "Themes of Effective Rehab for Homeless Individuals." <https://www.addictionresource.net/treatment/inpatient/homeless-individuals/>

In part, they state that integrated services should provide treatment for mental health and substance use disorders at the same time AND take place in a center that emphasizes the need for housing.

Also, care should be client centered and *take into account the client's readiness to participate in treatment.*

Regarding access to housing, they state: *For treatment to be effective, homeless people must have a stable living situation...* but also... *Stable housing, however, is not a substitute for addiction treatment.*

So, both housing and treatment are crucial. However, I think mandating treatment as a condition of housing in the manner of this Ordinance is counterproductive. It will not only undercut the Human Services staff and non-profit organizational experts hired to implement these services, but also leave individuals on the streets, which is exactly the condition both the housed and unhoused citizens would like to see remedied.

Proposed ORDINANCE NO. 22-033 should be defeated, not because it is ill-intentioned or because treatment is not important, but because it would hinder rather than help the County's efforts to reduce the number of homeless people living on the streets.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mitchell

EXHIBIT # PT-37FILE ORD 22-033

From: [Sandy Higgins](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Ordinance 22-033
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 5:06:35 PM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

I am in full support of REQUIRING drug treatment for residents of county-owned hotels, motels, etc. To think we would Not require such a thing is ridiculous. We want these people to get better not stay in their drugged manner of life. Our taxes are paying for this and we should enforce supervision, maintenance, and protection for families or single parents with children. Drugs should in no way be allowed. This is a significant amount of money expended and tax payers should know it is a safe environment for those living there and for the community surrounding the facility.

Sandy Higgins
Edmonds

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [mike quinn](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Drug Treatment Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 9:44:16 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-38

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

I am writing in support of the proposed Ordinance ([Ordinance 22-033](#)) that Councilmember Nehring has introduced. I live near the location of the Edmonds Hotel to be purchased. I believe having a requirement for utilization of the hotel for individuals that are willing to abide by a set of behavioral guidelines is not only good for them personally but also for the community. Providing housing I believe is essential for individuals in order for them to be able to move to the next steps in their recovery, either by their own choices or situations for which they had no control.

Having a behavioral standard and agreement with the residents I believe will further their commitment to recovery and put them into a place where they can begin to take full advantage of the services to be provided and have their own personal accountability. They will be in a better state of mind without the fog of drugs and able to understand and be counseled to the next step in their recovery process.

I further believe and have seen safety situations that result when there are no standards for behavior and continued drug use persists. This puts the lives of those living within the Hotel at risk and does not do anything constructive to help the drug user accept for now putting a roof over their head. What prevents them from continuing the lifestyle for which they find themselves homeless just continuing under government paid shelter? We need accountability not only for governments spending but also for the individuals within the hotels.

Lastly, I have seen situations in Seattle and outside the state (CA and OR) where these types of living situations (hotels) with no rules impact single mothers with kids. Putting women and children into these situations with no restrictions on drug use causes more problems for this specific vulnerable group. Many single mothers with kids, simply will not put their family into this situation thus leaving this group to continue to struggle to get appropriate housing.

The statement of work (SOW) for the service provider to be hired to run these hotels needs to have individuals with the skill set to enforce and counsel the population wanting to reside at the hotel and they need a behavioral agreement they can enforce for admittance.

I urge the council to support the Ordinance as put forward.

Mike Quinn
Woodway, WA.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [David Walker](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Cc: [Dave](#)
Subject: Ordinance 22-033
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 9:50:49 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-39
FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

RE: Public Testimony on Hotel Proposal for Unhoused Snohomish Residents:

As a recently retired physician who specialized in Addiction Medicine, I advise requiring hotel residents to be in treatment as a precondition. While providing housing is a laudable goal, without client "buy in" there is no accountability therefore little incentive to change. Without requiring treatment, I fear that this project will end up making the problem worse and ultimately more costly for the community.

Respectfully,

David Walker, MD

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

From: [Rebecca Anderson](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Require treatment for housing!
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 11:17:05 AM

EXHIBIT # PT-40

FILE ORD 22-033

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

As a resident of Snohomish County I am disappointed to learn that the hotel in Edmonds will not require those needing shelter to be in a treatment program should they have an addiction.

Not doing so is not compassionate but a negligent action that will not help the addicted but instead encourage them to continue to self destruction while wasting tax payer money. You can't spend your way out of addiction.

Do the right thing! Your misguided compassion will have negative consequences in the lives of the addicted and the community.

Thank you.

Yours,

Rebecca Anderson

Edmonds, Wa