



CITY OF SEATTLE

VIA U.S. MAIL & ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 19, 2018

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

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan
City of Seattle
600 Fourth Avenue, 7th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Mayor Nancy Backus
c/o City of Auburn 25
West Main St.
Auburn, WA 98001

Re: Regional One Table Task Force

Dear Executive Constantine, Mayor Durkan and Mayor Backus:

We write this letter as a follow up to the announcement that you intend to assemble “One Table”, a regional task force comprised of King County stakeholders. We believe that One Table’s charter is yet to be finalized but, understand that it is One Table’s desire to identify additional countywide resources to fund the urgent need of people experiencing homelessness and/or at-risk of experiencing homelessness.

We share your sense of urgency in combatting homelessness and lack of affordable housing in the region. The scale of this crisis truly requires an “all-hands- on-deck” approach, and we welcome and support your efforts. Because we wish to collaborate with our regional partners, we write to provide information about Seattle City Council’s Progressive Revenue Task Force and request a strong and open line of communication between One Table and the Progressive Revenue Task Force. We know the work of the One Table is important and want to bridge our efforts toward common goals. If it is helpful, we are happy to share the experience of our process and consider a shared seat between our tables.

In November of 2017, the Seattle City Council acknowledged the need to raise additional progressive revenue because of the lack of support and resources provided by the Federal and State governments to address Seattle’s Civil State of Emergency on Homelessness. On November 20, 2017, the Seattle City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 31782, establishing a Progressive Revenue Task Force and defining its scope of work. That resolution is attached.



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Our working definition for “Progressive Tax”, as identified in Resolution 31782, comes from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service definition, which is “a progressive tax takes a larger percentage of income from high-income groups than from low-income groups and is based on the concept of ability to pay.”

The Task Force’s responsibility is threefold: (A) evaluating a potential Employee Hours Tax on businesses operating within Seattle city limits which would generate between \$25 and \$75 million dollars annually; (B) exploring other potential progressive revenue sources; and (C) recommend investments supported by this revenue to help solve the issues of homelessness and unaffordability. The Task Force has a focused mission to find solutions that the City Council could implement immediately to address the crisis we face.

The Task Force held its first meeting on January 4, 2018, and intends to meet every two weeks before concluding its work and submitting a report to the City Council with its recommendations on March 1, 2018. Attached to this letter is (1) the Task Force’s Overview, (2) the Task Force’s Work Plan, (3) the Task Force’s Membership List, and (4) the minutes from our initial meeting. Additionally, Councilmember M. Lorena González (Position 9, Citywide) will provide regular updates in Councilmember Bagshaw’s Finance & Neighborhoods Committee to keep other councilmembers and the public apprised of the Task Force’s progress. Our co-chairs are also available to each of you for individual updates.

We hope you find this information helpful, and we look forward to collaborating with One Table as we work collectively to address the twin crises of homelessness and lack of affordable housing in Seattle and the region.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Councilmember M. Lorena González
Position 9, Citywide

Councilmember Lisa A. Herbold
District 1 (West Seattle & South Park)

Former Councilmember Kirsten Harris-Talley
Community Co-Chair

Tony To
Community Co-Chair