



City of Bellingham
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

MEMORANDUM

TO: HOMELESS STRATEGIES WORKGROUP

FROM: TARA SUNDIN, CITY OF BELLINGHAM, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER

CC: RICK SEPLER, CITY OF BELLINGHAM, PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
TYLER SCHROEDER, WHATCOM COUNTY DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
MARY DUMAS, HSW FACILITATOR

SUBJECT: LOW-BARRIER SHELTER STATUS REPORT

DATE: MARCH 15, 2018

Thank you for dedicating your valuable time to the important work of Whatcom County's Homeless Strategies Workgroup (HSW). It is clear that you are concerned and committed to addressing issues associated with homelessness in our City and County. It is clear that you all appreciate how difficult it is to not only identify a suitable site for Low-Barrier Shelter, but then to secure those sites. Thankfully, the convening of the HSW and your active participation has help narrow our focus down to just a few sites. Consistent with your direction, City and County staff have initiated detailed technical review of the identified sites.

In facilitating this review, City and County staff have determined that two of the four sites will be removed from further consideration - the County-owned 401 Grand Avenue lot and the City-owned Bellingham Police Department site. Their removal was based on the property owner (respectively the County and City) requiring the sites be retained for either current or use future jurisdictional use.

City staff are currently investigating the City-owned Employee Parking lot and the County-owned Health Department Site (509 Girard). Once this evaluation is completed, a report and recommendation will be made to the Mayor, County Executive, City Council and the County Council.

We expect to complete the next stage of feasibility within the next two weeks. Further feasibility will require hiring architectural and engineering services. We will keep the HSW apprised of our progress.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful evaluation.