



**King County**

**Pete von Reichbauer  
Metropolitan King County Council**

Councilmember Bruce Harrell  
Seattle City Council  
P.O. Box 34025  
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Dear *Bruce*

In November, the City of Seattle and King County declared a State of Emergency regarding the homeless crisis in our region. As this crisis has not abated and the number of tent cities around Seattle has grown since the declaration, I am struck by the fact that each day, I look out my office windows onto a prime piece of real estate that remains unused. This real estate, the former site of the city's Public Safety Building, is city-owned and located between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and Cherry and James Streets. It comprises one full city block and has been vacant for the past 11 years. Development of this site does not appear to be forthcoming in the near future.

I am contacting you to ask if the City of Seattle would consider a solution that would provide the homeless with a secure location and put the open space of the former public safety building to good use. The site is currently completely surrounded with walls with a locked gate allowing access. With the addition of restroom facilities, this site would provide a safe and secure spot for temporary encampment for some of our most vulnerable citizens. As open space is in short supply, it would provide an immediate alternative for those who are being removed from other areas. Additionally, this location is in close proximity to many social and health services needed by these vulnerable citizens, as well as to public transit, the Seattle Public Library, and other civic services.

Rather than continuing to allow this valuable public property to remain completely vacant with no benefit to the public, I urge you to evaluate its possible use for a temporary homeless encampment.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

*P*  
With best wishes,

Pete von Reichbauer  
King County Councilmember  
18 July 2016