



King County

Pete von Reichbauer
Metropolitan King County Council

Mayor Jim Ferrell and Councilmembers
City of Federal Way
33325 8th Ave. South
Federal Way, WA 98003

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am writing to you regarding the issue of safe injection sites in King County.

As you may know, the King County Board of Health (see attached) has approved a plan submitted by the Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force that calls for the siting of two "safe injection sites" in King County—one in Seattle and another in greater King County. However, in response to this approval, the King County Council voted 5-4 that funding for a "safe injection facility" (SIF) will only be provided to communities that affirmatively vote to house such a facility.

Although a citizen's group recently filed enough signatures to prevent the siting of SIFs in King County, the measure apparently will not be on the ballot until February 2018. Given the lag time, there is concern that Seattle-King County Public Health will move ahead with its siting before the measure can be voted on. Therefore, some cities are starting to take matters into their own hands. As early as today, Bellevue city staff will be presenting options to the city council that will allow the city to make SIFs illegal in the city of Bellevue.

Given the uncertainty as to where the county will decide to place a second SIF, I am strongly urging you and the council to take immediate action to prevent the siting of a safe injection site in city limits of Federal Way.

In addition, I am also recommending that this action include language that prohibits the siting of a SIF in any potential annexation areas surrounding Federal Way as the city is not served well when a prohibited activity shows up across the street from the city limits.

Please know that I am working hard at the county to prevent the siting of any SIF in Federal Way. However, it is important for the city to be proactive as well, and I believe the legislation above will go a long way towards preventing South King County from becoming a haven for heroin users.

With best wishes,

Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember
7 August 2017

Enclosure

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