



City of Seattle

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

May 31, 2019

Dear Neighbor:

I'm reaching out today because you have shown time and again that you are dedicated to making our City a better, more vibrant place for all who call Seattle home. You are committed to helping bring our neighbors experiencing homelessness off the streets and into safer places where they can access supportive services, shelter, and housing.

All Home recently released the 2019 Point in Time count, which showed that on the night of the count, there were an estimated 3,558 people living unsheltered in the City of Seattle, which is down from 4,488 people in January 2018 – the first decrease since 2012.

We know that our shared work to address our crisis of affordability and homelessness is having an impact. Some of the important steps we've taken in the past year include:

- Investing \$2 million in diversion – a national best practice of diverting people from our crisis response system into housing;
- Increasing access to rapid rehousing by 26 percent to help people regain housing quickly and provides support help them stabilize;
- Increasing the number of permanent supportive housing units, which contributed to safe and stable housing for over 1,900 people who have experienced chronic homelessness;
- Expanding shelter capacity by 25 percent for our unsheltered neighbors experiencing homelessness in 2018;
- Investing in more 24/7 shelters with services; and
- Expanding the Navigation Team to increase our capacity to connect even more people experiencing homelessness to services.

Every night, thousands of our neighbors sleep outside without shelter, in inhumane and dangerous conditions, and I believe we have an obligation to bring more people off the streets and into safer places. Our City's Navigation Team is on the front lines of this work. In 2018, the Navigation Team made more than 1,500 referrals to safer places like 24/7 shelters with services. During February's historic winter weather, the Navigation Team worked extended hours to provide additional outreach and transportation to shelters for hundreds of people living outside. The work that they are doing is saving lives and connecting people with shelter, case management, and other resources. It's crucial that we continue to invest in their important work.

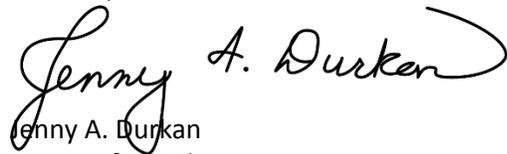
That's why today I'm announcing that we are adding four new members of the Navigation Team. These important new positions will allow the Navigation Team to conduct outreach across Seattle seven days per week. Two of these positions are newly-created System Navigators, who will help

provide outreach services and shelter referrals to people living unsheltered in encampments, so that we can see even more progress in connecting our neighbors experiencing homelessness to services. Since I took office in November 2017, we have now expanded the Navigation from 22 members and contract outreach workers, to 38. In 2018, the Navigation Team made more than 1,500 referrals to shelters, nearly doubling the number of 2017 referrals.

The mission of the Navigation Team remains the same: connecting people with services and helping them move into safer places. They also are critical to removing hazardous encampments, obstructions and camping in prohibited locations and to cleaning and restoring those areas.

If you have any questions about this update, please don't hesitate to follow up with Tiffany Washington directly. Thanks for all you do for our City.

Sincerely,



Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle