

## DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR I-5 EAST DUWAMISH GREENBELT SOLUTIONS

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

A RESOLUTION endorsing a public health and public safety model for the I-5 East Duwamish Greenbelt Joint Action Plan; proposing the immediate creation of an Emergency Public Health and Public Safety Action Committee to develop strategies to address the needs of people living in or around the I-5 East Duwamish Greenbelt (Greenbelt), addressing the public health and safety needs of people working and living near the Greenbelt, and providing safety for police, fire fighters and first responders who provide emergency services within and around the Greenbelt; devising a person-centered and strategic approach that prioritizes the offer of services and permanent housing to individuals based on their needs before a person's removal from the Greenbelt; directing the physical cleanup of the Greenbelt to provide a healthier and safer environment for all.

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle, along with King County, declared a State of Emergency on November 2, 2015, and is committed to addressing the homelessness crisis in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Department of Transportation, police, firefighters, first responders, advocates and others in our community recognize the public health and public safety concerns for the people living in and near the Greenbelt, for those responding to emergencies in and around the Greenbelt, and for those who use the I-5 freeway; and

WHEREAS, the public health and safety concerns arise from the lack of sanitary conditions within and around the Greenbelt, lack of emergency access along the Greenbelt, and problems arising from open fires, propane cans, and other flammable materials underneath and around I-5 and the Greenbelt; and

WHEREAS, responding to homelessness requires a coordinated public health and public safety response and alignment of community resources that to date has not occurred; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle and King County have adopted the values of the King County All Home Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and All Home recommend a coordinated person-centered approach to reduce homelessness by employing Housing First strategies, and

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness have recommended that all encampment cleanup strategies should be strongly paired with coordinated care and viable options for alternative housing or shelter; and

WHEREAS, a Housing First strategy combined with person-centered services is nationally recognized as the most effective tool to address our regional crisis of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, many fire fighters, first responders, police and human services providers recommend that we implement best practices to address the public health and public safety issues in and around the Greenbelt and across our city;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council support the cleanup of major health hazards, including human waste and garbage, and the removal of overgrown brush and other fire and safety hazards in the Greenbelt; and;

WHEREAS, following the current proposal I-5 East Duwamish Greenbelt Joint Action Plan, human service providers have indicated that the City and County have insufficient numbers of shelter beds and only 5%-10% of residents currently living in the I-5 East Duwamish Greenbelt will be able to transition into the existing indoor shelter available; and

WHEREAS, many residents living in the Greenbelt have been previously offered some form of mental health and substance addiction services, yet a coordinated action plan for relocation and assistance for those suffering from addictions and mental health or behavioral health issues has not been prepared; and

WHEREAS, displacing people without appropriate housing, shelter or services will not only increase harm to them but will likely increase the number of homeless people moving without shelter to other neighborhoods across the City; and

WHEREAS, Seattle neighborhoods are not prepared to offer adequate 24/7 shelter or services for people displaced from the Greenbelt; and

WHEREAS, to make every neighborhood within our City and County healthier and safer, we must align our regional resources and increase the number of housing or shelter units available for those who are homeless, and offer appropriate services for those suffering from mental illness, behavioral health, and medically-assisted treatment for substance addictions across our City and County;

#### GOALS

1. Person-centered outreach continues in Greenbelt to move people to safe and permanent spaces and clean Greenbelt without "sweeping" people
2. Strategic convening beginning immediately with Mayor's Office, Human Services Committee and Gender Equity, Safe Communities & New Americans Committee
3. Goals: Short term and long term needs of people who are camping in the Greenbelt and across the city – portable toilets, garbage cans, needle receptacles
4. Create strategic approach including finding permanent housing, making more mental health beds and drug addiction solutions available city and county-wide
5. Coordinate with regional partners including All Home, County, State and Federal
6. Create 24/7 shelters; strategically get 1000 people into permanent spaces with necessary services.