

May 17, 2021

Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda Seattle City Council
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Mosqueda:

We write to you today to urge you and your colleagues on the Seattle City Council to dedicate a majority of the new revenue flowing into the General Fund – both from local tax sources and from federal dollars allocated to the City of Seattle in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – to impactful investments to address the continuing and growing crisis of people living unsheltered in our city.

In addition to the tragic human loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic impact to families and individuals, businesses, non-profits, and governments has in some cases been unprecedented. We recognize that as a result, the Council is balancing the needs of many interests competing for limited public resources. Placing one priority in front of others is a difficult decision and should only be made if that priority is a city-wide issue impacting the most vulnerable in our community. Unsheltered homelessness clearly meets this test.

Five and a half years ago, the City of Seattle and King County formally declared a state of civil emergency for homelessness. One of the stated objectives of the civil emergency order was to request additional federal and state assistance to address homelessness. While this was not the anticipated route by which state and federal assistance would be granted to the City of Seattle, ARPA and the recently adopted state budget allocate state and federal funding to the City's General Fund at an amount we have not seen in a generation. King County has already committed over \$60 million of its ARPA funds toward emergency homelessness response and related behavioral health services. It is incumbent upon the City Council to use its resources in an aligned way to bring more people inside.

We have confidence that by investing federal resources - in addition to the robust local resources for homelessness that Seattle has and invests today - we can make more meaningful progress on addressing Seattle's most urgent humanitarian need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Alberg
Managing Partner
Madrona Venture Group

Bob Donnegan
Seattle Historic Waterfront
Association

Patrick Evans
President & CEO
Sound

Matt Galvin
Co-owner
Pagliacci Pizza

Erin Goodman
Executive Director
SODO BIA

Gina Hall
Executive Director
Uplift Northwest

Amy King
CEO
Pallet

Beth Knox
President
Seattle Sports Commission

Paul Lambros
CEO
Plymouth Housing

Daniel Malone
Executive Director
DESC

Susan Mullaney
President
Kaiser Permanente of
Washington

Jon Scholes
President & CEO
Downtown Seattle Association

Rachel Smith
President & CEO
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber

Mike Stewart
Executive Director
Ballard Alliance

Devin Stockfish
President & CEO
Weyerhaeuser Company

Cc:

Mayor Jenny Durkan
Council President Lorena González
Councilmember Lisa Herbold
Councilmember Tammy Morales
Councilmember Kshama Sawant
Councilmember Alex Pedersen
Councilmember Debora Juarez
Councilmember Dan Strauss
Councilmember Andrew Lewis