

Letter to King County Councilmember Larry Phillips RE: opening 420 4th Ave building as shelter from Coalition on Homelessness board member Benjamin Miksch

From: Benjamin Miksch

Date: Oct 28, 2015 2:27 PM

Subject: It's cold outside - help make sure people are safely indoors TONIGHT!

To: <Larry.Phillips@kingcounty.gov>

Cc: <kcexec@kingcounty.gov>, Alison Eisinger

Councilmember Phillips,

I respectfully request that you work with the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness on their proposal to open the vacant, county-owned property at 420 Fourth Ave as an emergency overnight shelter immediately.

If a large earthquake hit our region tomorrow, and 4,000 King County residents found themselves facing cold nights without shelter or other basic needs, there is no doubt in my mind that a vacant, county-owned property would be immediately repurposed into an overnight shelter to help address the emergency.

Why is our community's response to an economic disaster different than our response to a natural disaster?

The lack of shelter that people in my community are facing is absolutely an emergency, and we must do everything in our power to take care of our neighbors as quickly as possible. It is unfathomable to me that people in our county would be struggling to find something as basic as shelter while public buildings stand empty.

Please act now to bring more people inside tonight.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Miksch

Board Member - Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness