

CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

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Public Council Inbox Email

From: horace Parker <hpbulls23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 5:15 PM
To: Public Council Inbox Email
Subject: CTTC - Increasing Homeless Population in Burien City

Dear Burien Council: As a concerned citizen, I am worried about the proposal to create day care centers for our growing number of homeless. I am aware the city has a very tight budget without a lot of extra money to apply to this issue.

Our property taxes are going up dramatically this year, largely due to the lite rail expansion and the school levy. It is getting increasingly difficult, as senior citizens, to afford to live here anymore.

We are sensitive to the need to help homeless people, so I would propose the following:

I propose that you work on some sort of "referral system" for our homeless so they can be referred to and taken to existing programs already in place in King County and the city of Seattle. These are established, recognized resources that we already pay for through our taxes. Why would we set up new day care centers in Burien when \$ for the homeless programs already exist for South King County?

We would very much appreciate your attention to and consideration of this proposal, and not put extra financial burden on the already overstressed Burien City budget and Burien residents by building, maintaining and staffing day care centers.

Thank you, sincerely,

Horace Parker
14617 25th Ave. Sw.
Burien, Wa. 98166

Public Council Inbox Email

From: chestine edgar <16collingham@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Monica Lusk; Lucy Krakowiak; Debi Wagner; Bob Edgar; Nancy Tosta; Stephen Armstrong; Austin Bell; Public Council Inbox Email; Tony Piasecki; Lisa Marshall
Subject: CTTC - letter to council

February 1, 2017

To the Burien City Council;

At the last Council meeting, a couple of Council members again moved to change the future agenda schedule by trying to force their "pet project" item onto the March 6, 2017 agenda ahead of other agenda projects. Again this was an example of not being willing to follow the Council Guidelines. I encourage this Council to follow their own guidelines so that the work of the City can be accomplished in an orderly and cost effective manner.

The item that they were trying to push onto the agenda was a daycare facility for homeless youth in the City?

Many times, I have found that members of the Council attempt to press for a project without having fully investigated what already exists in the City. And while some Council members claim to have an interest in the homelessness issue or the mental health issue, they haven't gone out to look at the resources that exist. As specific examples of existing services in the City that only a few Council members have gone out to see, tour or talk with the service providers about are;

1. The extensive facilities and services of NAVOS-Navos has 2 sites in the City for outpatient service in the City and several housing locations. This mental health provider is the largest provider in our area of South King County. Additionally, it provides vocational and job training services here in Burien. NAVOS has a transitional housing facility for individuals 18-24 yrs. old. There they also provide counseling, adult living skills training and job training skills. I know of only 1 Council member who has ever extensively visited or viewed these sites.

2. Transform Burien-Provides hot meals 3 days per week, runs a clothing and food bank and has other agencies come in to their site to do health, dental and other services and to connect clients to other appropriate agency services such as housing. I know of only 2 Council members who have ever visited this agency and its services.

3. The Highline School District runs credit recovery programs for youth that have not graduated from high school. And several alternative sites for youth with alternate learning styles. The program at New Starts H.S. provides an array of services for homeless youth. The Puget Sound Skills Center runs extensive programs in real world job skills training. I know of only 2 Council members who have visited, toured and explored this center extensively. For the disabled and Section 503 youth-to age 21 yrs.-Highline runs the Realistic Transition Project which helps to educate, job train and prepare youth for independence. I know of only 1 Council member who is familiar with this program. Additionally, the Highline School district has a Homeless Service Coordinator that connects youth and families in the Highline School district to resources and services.

4. Auburn Youth Services funded and ran a program to pass out bracelets to what appeared to be perhaps homeless youth in the City. While some of the youth were willing to engage in the services that were offered, others had no interest and were unwilling to even try the services offered. Due to limited interest and response by the youth, I think they have ceased that program now. Auburn Youth Services continues to do outreach and services in Burien and referral to other service providers for youth.

5. Burien has an orphanage for children.

6. Burien has a Women's' Shelter which serves homeless women and helps train and connect them to work and transition to independent living again.

7. One Burien church provides a lunch meal one day per week to anyone in need and does it on a different day than the meals at Transform Burien.

8. One Burien business provides clothing, shoes and household items to anyone in need who shows up and requests them.

I would encourage Council members to visit the services that the Human Services grant monies that the City funds prior to jumping to conclusions and listening to gossip about what is needed or not needed. There is a distinct difference in providing help and service to those are willing to engage in the programs or just being an enabler agency that shows no results for decades. We certainly have seen how useless that was in the Coalition To End Homelessness Project-millions spent and few results. There is a difference between being really homeless and being poor or unwilling to engage.

Burien is a small, poor city with limited resources and needs to collaborate with its other neighboring cities to provide an array of human services. Burien needs to concentrate on bringing in resources rather than just spending out resources. The Council needs to concentrate on its Strategic Plan.

Lastly, preventative activity services and recreation spaces for youth are lacking in Burien. These spaces serve in other communities as a deterrent to youth crime and mischief problems. This Council needs to get busy on planning and building a Community Recreation Center- a place for youth to exercise, positively socialize with other youth, join teams, develop life skills, receive mentoring and have fun. Families desperately need this place for exercise, bonding time, community socialization time and entertainment. Over 80% of the people in Burien can't swim. They need to have waterproof training to save their lives. A pool at the Community Recreation Center could help to save lives.

Please follow the Strategic Plan you developed and that citizens paid for rather than taking off on tangential, pet project agenda issues constantly. Please follow your own guidelines that took at least 5 meetings to review, argue about and develop because they were so important to you.

Respectfully,

C. Edgar