



**Office of the Mayor  
City of Seattle  
Edward B. Murray, Mayor**

**Executive Order 2016-05:** An Executive Order creating a new low-barrier 24-hour shelter program similar to the successful Navigation Center in San Francisco, California, (1) with the primary goal of assisting people who are unsheltered into housing as rapidly as possible and (2) to increase the capacity of providers to provide tailored services utilizing an intensive service model based on flexible, housing-first practices.

WHEREAS, according to the 2016 annual One Night Count the number of people who are unsheltered in Seattle totals 2,942 people; and

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

WHEREAS, many of these individuals have lived in unsheltered or in isolated encampments for years because existing emergency shelters do not have the capacity (1) to accommodate possessions, (2) to allow couples to stay together, or (3) to allow pets that are not registered service animals to be close to their owners; and

WHEREAS, in December 2015, Mayor Ed Murray co-hosted a West Coast Mayors convening with Mayors from San Francisco, Portland, Los Angeles, and Eugene to discuss climate change and the growing homelessness crisis in cities and regions along the West Coast, during which participating cities discussed best practices, including San Francisco's innovative approach to a low-barrier 24-hour shelter known as the Navigation Center; and

WHEREAS, from January 1 to April 30, 2016, the Human Services Department's outreach partners engaged with 340 people who were unsheltered, of which 93% presented with a mental health and/or substance use condition, and 9% with one or more medical conditions, many of which were preventable and treatable; and

WHEREAS, a delegation from Seattle led by Mayor Ed Murray and including Councilmember Tim Burgess, and staff from the City of Seattle, King County, and All Home traveled to San Francisco on March 8, 2016, and then was followed up by a second delegation that included Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, the purposes of which were to see and learn firsthand about the effectiveness of San Francisco's Navigation Center; and

WHEREAS, the Navigation Center model is designed specifically to respond to challenges including but not limited to unsheltered people living as couples, with pets, with large amounts of possessions, and with active drug and alcohol use by providing viable housing alternatives for people who have been living in encampments and may otherwise not use existing shelter services; and

WHEREAS, the Navigation Center model is one that, if successful in Seattle, could be developed in geographic areas outside of the city as well, in order to meet the region's growing homelessness crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle diligently worked to secure support from the Governor's Office and the State Legislature for this model, which resulted in a dedication of \$600,000 in capital funding during the 2016 legislative session for a Navigation Center in Seattle, which the City is matching with a private donation of \$600,000 earmarked for homelessness services; and

WHEREAS, the City will establish a designated fund to serve as a repository of funding from other private donors and community members interested in contributing to this innovative model; and

WHEREAS, the City and County have adopted the values of the King County All Home Strategic Plan to promote (1) the housing-first model for stable housing, (2) targeted person-centered services, and (3) making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDWARD B. MURRAY, Mayor of Seattle, hereby order:

THAT, in order to address the unmet needs of the people who are unsheltered in Seattle, the Human Services Department will within sixty days evaluate the Navigation Center model and develop a program tailored to Seattle's specific needs and circumstances; and

THAT, in order to provide for the program's implementation and in keeping with procurement and performance best practices, the Human Services Department will within ninety days draft and release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this program so that a center can begin operation by December 31, 2016; and


THAT, in order to identify the necessary resources for the establishment and operation of a successful response to the program RFP, the City Budget Office will work with the Human Services Department on a budget and funding model; and

THAT, in order to bring together the public, private, and non-profit sectors in addressing a serious humanitarian problem, the City will immediately engage philanthropic, business, government, and community-based representatives to collaborate on the program's successful development and implementation through a public-private partnership workgroup that will be convened by the Director of the Human Services Department; and

THAT, when Seattle's Navigation Center becomes operational, priority consideration will be given to serving people in a manner that enables organic groups or communities that have formed in specific geographic areas to stay together and transition to the center, such as is the situation with many communities or groups of people who are currently living in the I-5 East Duwamish Greenbelt area.

Inquiries by City departments and offices regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Deputy Mayor Kate Joncas at (206) 684-4000.

Dated this 9th day of June, 2016

  
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Edward B. Murray  
Mayor, City of Seattle