



# City of Seattle

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

**Executive Order 2016-07:** An Executive Order establishing a coordinated response to homelessness to be led by the Mayor's Director of Homelessness who will set forth the priorities, obligations, and responsibilities of the City's continued efforts to address the growing needs of people experiencing homelessness.

WHEREAS, I, Edward B. Murray, Mayor of Seattle, reaffirm my commitment to respond to the crisis of homelessness and advance the most effective and efficient deployment of the City's resources to address the needs of families and individuals living without homes; and

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

WHEREAS, the January 29, 2016, One Night Count found 2,942 individuals sleeping unsheltered in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, members of our community should not be forced, by a myriad of circumstances including poverty, unemployment, lack of affordable housing, discrimination, addiction, mental illness, domestic violence, and/or exits from the foster care system, to live and sleep outdoors or on the street; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to create a service delivery system that best meets the needs of people experiencing homelessness, the City seeks to create a person-centered crisis response system, invest in models with demonstrated success, and address racial disparities; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to respond to the rise in homelessness in our region through greater investments and a continued push for greater state and federal resources; and

WHEREAS, it is also necessary to provide more efficient and effective alignment and coordination of efforts across the many departments who oversee work that connects with this issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDWARD B. MURRAY, Mayor of Seattle, hereby reaffirm the City's commitment to respond to the crisis of homelessness by ordering the following actions:

1. Effective August 24, 2016, there shall be a Director of Homelessness (Director), who will report directly to the Mayor's Director of Operations. The Director shall lead and coordinate efforts across City departments and provide oversight and evaluation of outcomes.
2. The Director shall coordinate decision-making related to the City's efforts to address homelessness. The Director will work with all City departments to:
  - a. Provide a more uniform and consistent approach to the planning, budgeting, design, and delivery of policies and projects intended to address homelessness with the goal of improving the overall quality, responsiveness, and success at serving people experiencing homelessness and the greater community;
  - b. Coordinate all cross-departmental initiatives centered on a systemic reform of the City's response to homelessness;
  - c. Support the Mayor's goal of ensuring that City departments are strategically and efficiently aligned to deploy resources in a coordinated and integrated fashion to provide the greatest and best impact using data and equity-based criteria; and
  - d. Make recommendations for potential system changes for the ways in which the City plans or implements policies and projects in response to homelessness, including exploring potential improvements to city processes. The Director will consult with the departments directly responsible for implementing service delivery and responding to unsheltered homelessness in order to resolve cross-cutting planning policy issues related to project and policy implementation, and to share lessons learned and best practices.
3. The Director will regularly convene City department directors with responsibility for major policies and projects related to addressing homelessness, as well as department directors that support neighborhoods and businesses which also feel the impacts of homelessness. Relevant departments include, but are not limited to:
  - Human Services Department
  - Office of Planning and Community Development
  - City Budget Office
  - Seattle City Light
  - Seattle Public Utilities
  - Seattle Department of Transportation
  - Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

- Department of Neighborhoods
- Office of Economic Development
- Office for Civil Rights
- Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
- Department of Finance and Administrative Services
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Office of Housing
- Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Seattle Public Libraries
- Department of Education and Early Learning
- Seattle Fire Department
- Seattle Police Department
- Seattle-King County Public Health

4. The goal of the Director and the departments referenced above will be to deploy the City's resources with improved coordination, alignment, and efficiency in order to make homelessness in Seattle rare, brief, and one-time.

Inquiries by City departments and offices regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Fred Podesta, Mayor's Director of Operations, at (206) 386-0041.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2016



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Edward B. Murray  
Mayor, City of Seattle