



## **2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **Federal Coronavirus Relief**

Like many cities, the City of Burien and the Burien community are facing unprecedented challenges as the coronavirus pandemic continues. If another federal coronavirus relief package is needed in 2021, and the following issues have not been adequately addressed in a previous package, these concerns should be included in a 2021 federal coronavirus package:

- Help with rental payments
- Homeless shelter funding
- Small business assistance
- Childcare support
- Unemployment funding
- School meals and school nutrition services
- Food security, including culturally appropriate food
- Workforce development retraining for employees who have lost jobs during the pandemic
- Help for local community banks that work with underserved communities
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for medical facilities and workplaces
- City funding to avoid unnecessary layoffs and service cutbacks
- Ensure that funding secured for transportation and infrastructure projects comply with Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBEs), and women-owned businesses, rules, and regulations.

### **Reduce Airport Noise and Emissions**

Work with our Congressional delegation, neighboring communities, the FAA, and the Port of Seattle to reduce SeaTac Airport noise and emissions by:

- Work with the FAA regional ombudsperson to address issues raised by Burien and other airport cities,
- Encourage the Port to complete another Part 150 aircraft noise study,
- Support **HR 6038**, known as the Aviation Impacted Communities Act that creates Aviation Impacted Community Boards to help citizens to better and more productively engage with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA),
- Encourage the FAA to complete the studies in the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act including:
  - Measuring the ambient lead concentrations around airports, identifying mitigation measures, and identifying existing non-lead fuel alternatives (USDOT led study),

- Evaluation of the health impacts of aircraft noise on residents around airports: Seattle is one of the cities to be studied,
- Implementing the pilot programs at six (6) “public use” airports to establish environmental mitigation projects.
- Support House Congressional efforts, including the support of Congresswoman Jayapal and Congressman Smith in their September 20, 2020 letter to the FAA, requesting the FAA to re-examine alternative metrics to the DNL 65 noise standard and include the potential for the use of such metrics in the United States.

### **Climate Action**

Encourage and support a national climate action plan. Burien is aware that in 2020, the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis released a report entitled “Solving the Climate Crisis, The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America.” Burien and neighboring cities are working on local climate action plans.

- Burien opposes efforts to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Burien supports appropriate federal forest management in Washington’s and other western federal forests, to minimize large forest fires and the accompanying poor air quality that has affected our region in recent summers.
- Burien supports strengthening aviation greenhouse gas emissions legislation.

### **Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Mitigation Funding**

Work with the federal delegation, the Port of Seattle, and neighboring cities to identify traffic, environmental, and other appropriate mitigation funding for Burien due to SAMP impacts.

### **Support Federal Funding for Housing and Homelessness Programs**

- **CDBG:** Maintain or Increase Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); the King County Consortium (of cities) uses CDBG for housing stability/homelessness prevention, affordable housing development and many other human services. The federal government funded CDBG at \$3.365 billion in FY2019, and at \$3,425B in FY2020.
- **HOME Program:** Maintain or Increase the HOME Program: HOME funds provide funding for affordable housing. Each HOME dollar invested leverages an additional five dollars for housing. The federal government funded HOME at \$1.25 billion in FY2019, and at \$1.350B in FY 2020.
- **McKinney-Vento:** Maintain or Increase McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants; McKinney grants help provide shelter and services to homeless families and individuals. The federal government funded McKinney at \$2.636 billion in FY2019, and \$2.777B in FY2020.
- **Section 8 Vouchers:** Support Funding for Section 8 Vouchers: Support funding for Section 8 Tenant-Based and Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers: funded at \$11,747B in and at \$12,570B in FY2020.

- **VASH:** Support Funding for VA Supportive Housing Vouchers (VASH): Support funding for the VASH program that has been a vital source of homelessness services for low-income veterans in King County; funded at \$40M in FY2019 and FY2020.
- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program:** Support amendments to LIHTC by supporting the bipartisan Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (**H.R. 3077/S.1703**) sponsored by Senator Cantwell in the Senate (**S.1703**) with 40 cosponsors. **S.1703** increases the annual housing credit allocation authority by 50%, phased in over five years, and would target resources to families who need it most.
- **SKHHP:** Seek competitive grant funding or other federal funding for a Housing Trust Fund for the South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP). South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP) is a coalition formed by an interlocal agreement among the jurisdictions of Auburn, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Normandy Park, Renton, Tukwila, and King County. The agreement allows South King County jurisdictions to work together and share resources in order to effectively address affordable housing and homelessness.

### **Federal Gang Prevention and At-Risk Youth Funding**

Support federal funding for gang prevention and at-risk youth programs.

### **Infrastructure**

- Support the following amendments included in the House-passed “Moving Forward Act” (reauthorization of the 6-year transportation funding bill):
  - Rep. Larsen’s amendment that makes grants in the “Community Transportation Investment Grant Program” to projects in urbanized areas with populations greater than 49,999 and less than 200,001. This is a long-supported grant program for smaller/mid-size cities.
  - Rep. Smith’s amendment adding a national study of the health effects of “ultrafine particles” from aircraft exhaust around airport communities.
  - Congresswoman Jayapal’s amendment increasing funds for airport emission reduction projects.
- Burien supports expediting the already funded Sound Transit study for light rail extension to Burien.
- Burien supports the as-needed federal funding to extend Sound Transit light rail to Burien.

### **Burien Public Works Projects**

Work with potential regional partners in applying for federal grant money for two projects:

- The Burien Public Works and Parks Shared Maintenance Facility; Burien has set aside \$7.5M.
- The SR 518 Westbound On-Ramp to Des Moines Memorial Drive.

### **Gun Violence**

Support continued federally funded studies treating gun violence as a public health issue. The federal government funded \$25 million in studies on gun violence as a public health issue in the FY 2020 federal budget.

Support the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office Crime Strategies Unit’s (CSU) efforts to address gun violence through a public health approach by collecting and sharing illegal gun shooting data from throughout King County.

Research has consistently shown that firearm violence is intensely concentrated within small, identifiable social networks. Firearms violence spreads within these networks, meaning that the closer a person is to a victim of firearm violence, the more likely they are to be a victim of firearm violence themselves. Along with law enforcement partners, CSU is using data to understand the networks of firearm violence in King County and to identify those individuals who are most at risk of victimization.

The Crime Strategies Unit was initially funded by a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, an office within the U.S. Department of Justice. Burien supports continued federal funding of this Unit as needed.

- Support federal funding of the Crime Strategies Unit efforts.

### **Police Reform**

Support comprehensive police reforms statewide and across the country including consideration of the following reforms:

- Bar choke holds,
- Bar no knock entrances,
- Establish a federal system to report police misconduct.

### **Immigration**

Support comprehensive immigration reform with an emphasis on ensuring that families stay together and enhancing community and economic stability for Burien’s residents and citizens.

### **Financial Services**

“De-risking”, also known as “de-banking” is a bank’s termination or restriction on bank accounts that it deems “high risk” for the supposed purpose of preventing “remittances,” the payment or transfer of money, frequently by a worker to his or her family in their country of origin, to prevent the financing of terrorism.

Federal actions have discouraged large financial institutions from participating in remittances to certain countries, including Somalia, because of diminished capacity to implement financial

controls in those nations that would prevent remittances from falling into the hands of terrorist organizations. State and local financial institutions have also excluded remitters from being able to open bank accounts.

Far from improving security, bank de-risking is believed to increase the risk to the U.S. financial system by driving businesses into un-regulated channels. The World Bank has declared that keeping individuals and businesses in regulated financial systems is a precondition to mitigate banking risks and combat financial crimes. Therefore:

- Burien supports Inclusion, in a financial services package, language supporting “remitters” – businesses that transfer funds to so-called “high risk” countries – to hold and maintain bank accounts in Washington.

### **Local Broadband Enhancement**

Broadband access is integral to communities, small and large, to support basic services like healthcare and education and to drive economic growth. Partnering with the National League of Cities and the Association of Washington Cities, Burien support efforts to:

- build and/or upgrade broadband infrastructure,
- Fund expansion of broadband access in underserved and hard-to-serve communities,
- take steps to address broadband affordability through implementation of a digital equity grant program that would support state and local efforts to increase broadband availability, and

### **Opportunity Zones Extension**

Support of an extension of the Opportunity Zone program beyond the present end date of December 31, 2026. Currently, funds had to be invested by December 31, 2019 in order to be held for the seven (7) year period required to receive the maximum capital gains tax benefits before the program ends. Burien has two opportunity zones, which would benefit from an extension of the program to encourage development in these zones.

### **Salmon Recovery Funding**

Support funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to construct a downstream Fish Passage Facility at the Howard Hanson Dam without additional costs to local governments and regional ratepayers. Howard Hanson Dam is on the Green River in King County.

- A downstream fish passage system at Howard Hanson Dam is essential to the recovery of Puget Sound Chinook salmon, a primary food source for the endangered Puget Sound southern resident killer whales (orcas).

Support an appropriation to implement capital projects authorized by Corps of Engineers Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Burien is located in WRIA 9, the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed.

### **Marijuana Laws**

Reform marijuana laws at the federal level so that local marijuana businesses in Burien can operate legally.