

# DESC Burien Supportive Housing Neighborhood Outreach Report

801 SW 150<sup>th</sup> Street

Burien, WA 98166

Prepared by

Julie Nordgren, DESC Housing Developer  
Kim Bui, DESC Housing Development Coordinator

March 30, 2021

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# 1. Introduction

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For several years, DESC has been looking for sites outside of Seattle in order to build our first permanent supportive housing apartment building outside of Seattle. We know that homelessness is not just a “Seattle problem”. It is county- and state-wide issue that has grown significantly over the last decade. DESC is a nonprofit committed to health and housing for people experiencing homelessness in King County. We currently have fourteen buildings across Seattle providing permanent supportive housing to individuals with long histories of homelessness. We have long been interested in expanding our effective, award-winning permanent supportive housing model to those experiencing homelessness outside of Seattle. In August 2020, DESC entered into a purchase and sale agreement with the seller of the Burien Professional Center at 801 SW 150<sup>th</sup> St, Burien, WA 98166 and intends to build a 95-unit affordable housing development on the site.

In November of 2020, DESC submitted our application for the Affordable Housing Demonstration Program (AHDP). We are excited to introduce our housing model to a city committed to housing affordability. A step of the design review and ADHP application processes includes notifying our neighbors of our plans for the site. We have gone about this in a number of different ways which include: reaching out to neighborhood organizations by email, mailing a letter and flyer to properties within 1000 feet of the proposed site, creating a website dedicated to DESC Burien news and information, and holding a Virtual Public Meeting via Zoom for real-time information-sharing between DESC staff and community members.

The intent of this report is to record the efforts made to contact community members and to memorialize the comments, feedback, and questions we have received to date. If you have any questions about the contents of this reports, please contact DESC’s Housing Developer Julie Nordgren at [jnordgren@desc.org](mailto:jnordgren@desc.org).

Thank you!

***The DESC Burien Development Team***



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## 2. Initial Outreach Plan

515 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  
phone: 206.464.1570  
fax: 206.624.4196  
[desc.org](http://desc.org)

January 29, 2021

Susan McLain  
Community Development Director, City of Burien  
400 SW 152<sup>nd</sup> St  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Burien Affordable Housing Demonstration Program – Community Outreach Plan**  
**Project: DESC Burien at 801 SW 150<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Susan,

Please see our proposed community outreach plan with anticipated schedule for your review. The plan is broken into three outreach methods: print, digital, and a virtual meeting. We want to express our gratitude for the assistance we have received from the City in familiarizing us with neighborhood organizations. Your input has been very helpful as we prepared this plan. We are ready to begin implementing this plan immediately upon approval.

### Print

- Mailers: Flyers will be mailed via USPS to surrounding community within 1000' radius of project site. Mailers will include project information as well as direction to the website, an invitation to the virtual meeting (including the Zoom link), contact information, and various methods to deliver comments and concerns.
- Flyers to be mailed by February 5, 2021.

### Digital

- Project Website: DESC has prepared a webpage with DESC Burien project information. The site will be regularly updated with latest details on project and will contain a link to the virtual Zoom public meeting.
- Online Comments: DESC has created a Microsoft Forms link which will be accessible on the DESC Burien webpage. This page invites visitors to provide feedback or ask questions about the DESC Burien project and includes an optional space where users can input their contact information for follow-up.
- Digital methods will be established by February 2, 2021.

### Virtual Meeting

- The DESC Burien team will host a public online virtual meeting to present plans and give the community an opportunity to comment and present concerns. Representatives from the DESC leadership team, our architecture firms SMR Architects, and our preconstruction general contractor Exxel-Pacific will be present to learn more about neighborhood concerns and respond to questions.
- The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

All outreach activities and materials shall meet the following standards, such that each:

- Includes a brief summary of the proposal





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fax: 206.624.4196  
**desc.org**

- Includes the address of the project site
- Identifies a contact/contacts for the project.
- Provides contact information for sending feedback, comments, or questions directly to applicant (DESC).
- Indicates that comments and questions may be made public through our Land Use outreach reporting process.

Thank you. We welcome your questions and feedback.

Sincerely

DocuSigned by:  
*Julie Nordgren*  
CBCB5403A415...  
**Julie Nordgren**  
Housing Developer, DESC  
(253) 245-7744  
jnordgren@desc.org



### 3. Summary of Outreach by Mail

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The DESC Burien team crafted an informational letter describing the proposed project, DESC and its mission, the tenant population, and information on how to access the Zoom Virtual Public Meeting. We also prepared a flyer showing renderings of the DESC Burien supportive housing design, an invitation to the Virtual Public Meeting, and other DESC contact information including the DESC Burien website. The letter and flyer may be found on pages 5-7 of this report. The City of Burien provided a list of property addresses within 1000 feet of the site (please see the list on page 8). We prepared and mailed letters to these addresses on February 5, 2021 in order to allow ample time for delivery and receipt prior to the Virtual Public Meeting scheduled for February 23, 2021.

## 4. Mailed Letter & Flyer

515 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  
phone: 206.464.1570  
fax: 206.624.4196  
[desc.org](http://desc.org)



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February 5, 2021

Dear Neighbor:

DESC is working on a new affordable housing development in downtown Burien, located at 801 SW 150<sup>th</sup> Street. DESC will acquire the property and develop a permanent supportive housing project onsite. We plan to start construction in the beginning of 2022. When complete, the new building will feature 95 studio units of affordable housing with supportive services onsite and indoor/outdoor community spaces for single adults who are disabled and formerly homeless. DESC will own and operate the building after completion.

With over 14 other housing developments, DESC knows the value of being a good neighbor. We will be a member of the Burien community for years to come. By learning more about each other and clearly communicating our interests and needs, we can build a positive relationship. In an effort to introduce the details of our project and learn more about the neighborhood, we are hosting a virtual meeting featuring this new housing development. We invite you and anyone who is interested in learning more to join us on:

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Please join using the Zoom link below:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/97673437142?pwd=c05oMVZCRXhGYWRSVU41anN1M2J2dz09>**

**Meeting ID: 976 7343 7142 | Passcode: 383150**

**Dial in: 1-253-215-8782**

**More information about this project is available at [www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien/](http://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien/)**

For 42 years, DESC has been the primary resource for the most vulnerable people living without housing in the region. We work to implement innovative and cost-effective strategies that end homelessness. These include permanent supportive housing, behavioral health care, crisis intervention, emergency shelter and outreach, and employment services. DESC's Supportive Housing Program operates over 1400 units of housing in Seattle, winning multiple national awards along the way. Each year, DESC serves thousands of individuals and helps hundreds of people move off the streets into permanent supportive housing. By building housing at this location, DESC intends to serve and house people who have been experiencing homelessness in Burien.

DESC has operated supportive housing since 1994 and has produced 14 projects in that time, with several additional projects in various stages of development. Construction continues in our South Seattle location which will add 92 units to the 85 already in service and will include an integrated physical & behavioral healthcare clinic; meanwhile, construction will begin for a 100-unit permanent supportive housing development in North Seattle. DESC and its team of architects and contractors have been recognized for quality design and construction.

For more information about DESC please visit our website [www.desc.org](http://www.desc.org). We also welcome your questions and feedback. Please contact DESC's Executive Director Daniel Malone at (206) 515-1523 or [dmalone@desc.org](mailto:dmalone@desc.org). Please note that DESC Burien may make public any comments or questions as part of the City of Burien's Land Use review process. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to be included on future updates as



our plans progress, please email [info@desc.org](mailto:info@desc.org). If you own a property in the neighborhood and rent it out, we encourage you to forward this information to your tenants. You can find a copy of this letter and flyer at [www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien/](http://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien/). You will also find a link to provide questions or comments.

Hope to see you on February 23rd!

Sincerely,



Daniel Malone  
Executive Director, DESC







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## DESC INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A Virtual Informational Meeting

about a new affordable housing development  
with supportive services for formerly homeless  
single adults to be built at 801 SW 150th Street.



**Tuesday,  
February 23rd  
6:30 - 7:30 PM**

*We will share details and answer  
questions about this new housing  
development.*

**Zoom Meeting Link:**

[https://zoom.us/j/97673437142?  
pwd=c05oMVZCRXhGYWRSVU41anN1M2J2  
dz09](https://zoom.us/j/97673437142?pwd=c05oMVZCRXhGYWRSVU41anN1M2J2dz09)

Meeting ID: 976 7343 7142

Passcode: 383150

Dial in: 1-253-215-8782



***Not able to attend, but still interested in learning more?***

See <https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien>























X: 126736!	709	204827	15045	5TH	AVE	SW	UNIT	332	BURIEN	WA	98166	19230493!	5TH AVE S 5TH AVE S' Within Bur	THE MAVE Current	19230493! ALTUS GR	PO BOX 92 SOUTHLAK 76092
X: 126737!	710	204829	15045	5TH	AVE	SW	UNIT	336	BURIEN	WA	98166	19230493!	5TH AVE S 5TH AVE S' Within Bur	THE MAVE Current	19230493! ALTUS GR	PO BOX 92 SOUTHLAK 76092
X: 126737!	711	204830	15045	5TH	AVE	SW	UNIT	338	BURIEN	WA	98166	19230493!	5TH AVE S 5TH AVE S' Within Bur	THE MAVE Current	19230493! ALTUS GR	PO BOX 92 SOUTHLAK 76092
X: 126737!	712	204828	15045	5TH	AVE	SW	UNIT	334	BURIEN	WA	98166	19230493!	5TH AVE S 5TH AVE S' Within Bur	THE MAVE Current	19230493! ALTUS GR	PO BOX 92 SOUTHLAK 76092

## 6. Summary of Email Outreach

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DESC worked closely with Colleen Brandt-Schluter, the City's Human Services Manager, and Chief Ted Boe of the Burien Police Department to devise a list of organizations to reach out to personally prior to the Virtual Public Meeting. DESC targeted organizations who may have great interest in the DESC Burien project including local business organizations like Discover Burien and the Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce, local politicians including Burien City Councilmembers, elected officials from the State Legislature and County Council for this district, and local behavior health and homelessness organizations.

We received significant support from Mary's Place and had a meeting with leadership there to discuss our outreach process. DESC's Executive Director met with several local politicians and received some feedback about making sure our materials are translated into Spanish. DESC has provided information and materials in Spanish. See Section 17. Outreach to Latinx Community below. Sondra Nielsen with DESC had contact with Nancy Kick and Reverend Jenny Partch with the Ecumenical Leadership Circle and the Multi-Service Center. These individuals expressed support and enthusiasm for the project. Many of the people outreached directly turned up at the Virtual Public Meeting and asked questions or expressed support there.

Most of the emails below are representative of the recent outreach efforts including feedback sent after the February Virtual Public Meeting and the Virtual Small Business Meeting.

## 7. Email List & Emails

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### **Email Recipients:**

Navos	Arlene Hampton, Burien Senior Site Director of Mary's Place
Transform Burien	Marty Hartman, Mary's Place Executive Director
Ecumenical Leadership Circle	Scott Schaefer, B-Town Blog Editor
Discover Burien	Andrea Reay, Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce
REACH	Mirya Roach, St. Vincent de Paul
Catholic Community Services	
Sound Health	
Multi-Service Center	
Church Council of Greater Seattle	
Community Visions	
Jimmy Matta, Burien Mayor	
Krystal Marx, Burien Deputy Mayor	
Pedro Olguin, Councilmember – Position 1	
Cydney Moore, Councilmember – Position 2	
Kevin Schilling, Councilmember – Position 4	
Nancy Tosta, Councilmember – Position 5	
Sofia Aragon, Councilmember – Position 8	
Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember	
Dave Upthegrove, King County Councilmember	
Senator Joe Nguyen, 34 <sup>th</sup> Legislative District	
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, 34 <sup>th</sup> Legislative District	
Representative Eileen Cody, 34 <sup>th</sup> Legislative District	
Representative Tina Orwall, 33 <sup>rd</sup> Legislative District	
Lisa Daugaard, LEAD Executive Director	
Aaron Burkhalter, LEAD Project Manager	

## Julie Nordgren

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**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:01 PM  
**To:** Julie Nordgren  
**Cc:** Daniel Malone; Megan Mayes; Sondra Nielsen  
**Subject:** FW: DESC meeting-my comments to be included

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**From:** chestine edgar [mailto:16collingham@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:08 PM  
**To:** Info <info@desc.org>; Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>; Megan Gregor <megang@burienwa.gov>; HeatherD@burienwa.gov; Burien City Council <council@burienwa.gov>; Jimmy Matta <jimmym@burienwa.gov>; Nancy Tosta <nancyt@burienwa.gov>; Kevin Schilling <kevins@burienwa.gov>; Sofia Aragon <sofiaa@burienwa.gov>; Cydney Moore <cydneym@burienwa.gov>; Pedro Olguin <pedroo@burienwa.gov>  
**Cc:** Brian Wilson <brianw@burienwa.gov>; Garmon Newsom II <GarmonN@burienwa.gov>  
**Subject:** DESC meeting-my comments to be included

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please place this letter in Correspondence to the Council

To the Burien City Council

To-

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vB53CSz\\_xEqSaWypkWwSvy9NQAzbz2RJq8k7cIT\\_EOJUMDDUU\\_TNKSDNaS1A4S1VRRldYV0g2STIWMS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vB53CSz_xEqSaWypkWwSvy9NQAzbz2RJq8k7cIT_EOJUMDDUU_TNKSDNaS1A4S1VRRldYV0g2STIWMS4u)

[info@desc.org](mailto:info@desc.org)

[dmalone@desc.org](mailto:dmalone@desc.org) -Daniel Malone, Executive Director

**RE-Feb. 23, 2021 meeting in Burien about the proposed DESC Supportive Housing in Burien**

To DESC and the Burien City council;

**About your announced purpose for coming to the Burien Downtown Core**-This meeting that you are holding tonight was billed as something that Burien needs in its downtown core because of the number of homeless people that Burien has currently residing in it. I disagree with DESC's claim on this issue. Frequently, Burien residents have been and are told by a couple of members that Burien has certain needs, specific conditions, over all community support and desires and exaggerated conditions that it really does not have. I have written to the council on many occasions about these fabrication, exaggeration and false facts that some council member have put out to the public and I have asked that these false council communications end. In spite of that, again we have you coming to us about this plan of yours to put your shelter in the core of our Burien downtown.

Some examples of these kinds of these historical false and exaggerated claims have been-

1. Seattle Mary's Place was told by two council members that the city of Burien had 1,200 homeless school children residing in it. This was a flat out falsehood. The Highline School District which consists of the cities; Kent, SeaTac, Normandy Park, DesMoines, Burien and unincorporated King County (6 separate entities in southwest KC) had 1,200 homeless children but Burien did not have 1,200 children residing in it. Burien has never had 1,200 homeless child in any given year. However, Seattle Mary's Place then used this false information to put a shelter in Burien that brings in 214+ homeless people into Burien every 90 days. The bulk of homeless are not from Burien but are rather are from Seattle, King County, other parts of the State and from out of State but Burien residents are now paying for the supportive services that this facility requires. And during the time that Mary's Place applied for a change to the Comp. Plan Land Use Map-2018, Mary's Place and the City of Burien concealed who was the real owner and sponsors of this land purchase. As it finally turned out, the State of Washington (the State grant dollars were hidden from the Burien public) was a major contributor to the purchase of the land. Even before the land was purchased, the county executive secretly promised Mary's Place money to come to Burien. So Mary's Place was not put in Burien because of a need of Burien and its residents but as part of a political maneuver by the county and the State and Mary's Place to dump homeless into Burien. As Mary's Place put in the title to its grant application, to make "Burien the Homeless Hub for Southwest King County". Burien residents were not informed of this grant title and they certainly did not want that designation for their city.

2. The same council members have also been involved in ploys to announce and do outreaches for ESFs to come to Burien, to push for expanded ADUs in the residential parts of Burien (ADUs that Dow C. refuses to put in his own backyard and on his single family residential lots), eliminating protections for critic areas to build tiny shack house on these lands and now this claim that Burien needs a shelter like yours in the core of our downtown that we are trying to encourage economic development and recovery in-for a size of homeless population that the "one night counts" do not identify or justify as being in Burien. For that reason, I am opposed to your proposed planned housing project and so are many other Burien residents.

3. Additionally, these council members made false claims about the amount of low income affordable housing Burien had-repeatedly and constantly at council meetings and on their Facebook pages.

**The DESC History**- Your claim is that DESC has been doing this kind of work for 42 years as a non-profit. Aside from the failed sheltering model in Renton, WA. at the Red Lion Hotel (done at the contracting with the King County council and the County Executive) DESC has focused its sheltering and services on Seattle. Seattle still desperately needs these DESC resources and services because of the thousands of homeless that are still out on the streets of Seattle. So it raises the question as to why DESC is now foraging/branching out into Burien. And why Burien (because than many of the surrounding neighboring cities and unincorporated KC have much higher needs) for a homeless shelter? And who of the



KC and Burien politicians has been feeding DESC false information about population numbers, location desirability and Burien residents' desires to be housed near to a DESC shelter? The proposed location for this shelter is in close proximity to residential properties and close to vulnerable populations, so who suggested and directed DESC to this proposed location? What will this shelter site do to improve and benefit Burien? Who will be paying for the very increased supportive services this DESC shelter will need-police, fire, emergency services? Typically, resident property owners get saddled with the costs and that has been true of the reports about the Seattle shelters DESC owns or operates. Burien is a very resources poor community so where will the extra dollars to support DESC and it clients come from?

And while DESC has been operating since 1979(according to its website), Housing First as a notion didn't come into being until 1988-and it wasn't highly embraced as a model at that point in time. So DESC has not been following Housing First as its model since 1979. For those of us who have followed highly effective homelessness models such as the ones the State of Utah has built and operates, the first rule of thumb is not to place a homeless housing unit in the location such as DESC has selected in Burien. Housing and shelters of this nature belong in semi commercial and commercial-industrial areas of a city that are not immediately adjacent to residential housing. They should not be placed in locations that cities are trying to economically develop for shopping, restaurant and family uses. I could see a shelter of this nature over by the new Suburban Sewer District offices but not in Burien's downtown core. I quote Lloyd Pendleton/retired Director of Utah State's Homelessness Project/Department. Lloyd and I had several conversations on where such shelters are best placed.

The DESC shelters I have observed in Seattle continue to have community, police and emergency service problems because the sites for those shelters have required extra community supportive services due to the violence and substance issues that have spilled out onto the streets, the public and other DESC residents being endangered and injured. Contrary to your propaganda and organization self-promotion, DESC has not met its goals and numbers for a number of its sites, has expounded some very strange philosophies about how to help people with substance abuse, has not provided adequate supervision to a number of its clients and has vastly exhausted supportive services for the locations the shelter/housing sites in Seattle and Renton. I don't see DESC as an exception leader but rather one of the only "homeless housing shows in Seattle"-a city in a county that has handled homelessness very poorly for a very long time. Burien doesn't need that.

Experiences and media articles have left me and a number of my Burien neighbors unimpressed with DESC-

1. The DESC Renton Red Lion site lack of client supervision, lack of appropriate planning, increased crime rates in the site location area, need for increased policing and the real health and safety issues for residents at that site.
2. The DESC policy for alleged substance abuse treatment by encouraging increased anal drug use-Heroin- by residents-called booty bumping. Paid for with taxpayer dollars. Shame on DESC and Mr. Malone. <https://mynorthwest.com/2593799/rantz-seattle-shelter-city-fund-heroin-pipes-injection/>
3. The exterior condition of some of the DESC sites with crime, violence and substances spilling out into the public streets.
4. The DESC representations and conditions exposed in a recent video production titled "Fight For the Soul of Seattle".

**Based on these observations, I am opposed to the DESC shelter in the downtown Burien. And for that reason, I am writing to DESC and expressing my opposition.**

This DESC shelter will be located in the heart of Burien, two blocks from Merrill Gardens, Town Center, The Maverick and our business district.

On the heels of our Burien businesses being decimated from COVID, the last thing we need is a transitional & permanent homeless housing unit in the heart of Burien.

This Burien council LACKS leadership to take care of crime now; ask yourself, will this DESC project help Burien? Will this decrease our crime? Will Burien retain its family friendly core? Is this an appropriate location? Not according to successful homelessness experts.

Will this help to promote the economic development that Burien desperately needs to be a sustainable city?

Respectfully,

Dr.C.Edgar

\*\*\*\*\*

<https://tinyurl.com/3ph78qqo>

## Kim Bui

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**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren  
**Subject:** FW: DESC Burien

FYI

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**From:** Amy Gelinis [mailto:AGROLL72@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>  
**Subject:** DESC Burien

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

With regards to the proposed DESC facility to be located at 801 SW 150th, this would be a horrible decision for our city.

Such a facility would present a risk to everyone, business and individuals alike. It would render Downtown a place I wouldn't let my kids go alone, which is an activity we appreciate the most about this little community. To load our business core with single men struggling with addiction would be irresponsible and clearly not in the best interests of the city.

Further, the proposed facility is huge. Much bigger than would be required to house every homeless person in Burien, not just men. This tells me you would be filling this place with men from all over the region, and that little powerless Burien would be required to take on problems from other failing cities. We simply cannot afford to shoulder yet more troubles when we cannot even solve our current problems.

Please make the right choice for the citizens of Burien and do not allow this facility to be located here.

Thank you

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## Kim Bui

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**From:** Julie Nordgren  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 10:40 AM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Subject:** FW: DESC

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**From:** Maria Jacinto <mjacinto@desc.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 21, 2021 7:20 PM  
**To:** Julie Nordgren <jnordgren@desc.org>; Sondra Nielsen <snielsen@desc.org>; Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>  
**Subject:** FW: DESC

FYI

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### **Maria Jacinto**

Executive Coordinator

Pronouns: She/Her

DESC Administrative Office

515 Third Avenue

206-464-1570 x3082

*I am currently working offsite EXCEPT on Tuesdays.*

[desc.org](http://desc.org)

**Housing First Partners Conference is going VIRTUAL in 2021!**  
**April 20 & 21, 2021 – REGISTER NOW!**

For more information, visit [hfpartnersconference.com](http://hfpartnersconference.com)

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**From:** Debi Wagner [<mailto:debi.wagner@icloud.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 20, 2021 11:54 PM  
**To:** Info <[info@desc.org](mailto:info@desc.org)>; Daniel Malone <[dmalone@desc.org](mailto:dmalone@desc.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: DESC

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I failed to understand that I was to send this letter to you for the record. Please accept this letter below previously sent to the Burien City Council with regard to the DESC project in Burien.

Thank you

Debi Wagner

---

**From:** Debi Wagner <[debi.wagner@icloud.com](mailto:debi.wagner@icloud.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 20, 2021 4:57 PM

**To:** 'council@burienwa.gov' <[council@burienwa.gov](mailto:council@burienwa.gov)>; 'Brian Wilson' <[BrianW@burienwa.gov](mailto:BrianW@burienwa.gov)>

**Subject:** DESC

Please include this letter into correspondence to the council.

Hello Mayor Matta and Council Members:

I listened to the public conversation on the DESC development and have some concerns about this project.

It sounds to me like this is a done deal with property purchased, 17 million allocated, and what appears to be almost a partnership rather than an unbiased, objective look at this project by the city of Burien. It also seems there was very little public notice of this project or open public process. The first time I saw or heard anything about it was on the B-Town Blog after nearly all approval has happened.

This is another experiment but a little different than what Renton has experienced. Renton council recently voted to clear this project from their city and Red Lion where they still have the opportunity to reclaim their peace. It sounds like the problems associated with the facility prompted the Renton City Council to vote overwhelmingly to get rid of DESC operation in their city. They are in a different position than us because Burien's land use will be permanent rather than temporary. This is disturbing since it was a failure in Renton.

It sounded as though the DESC representatives making the presentation to Burien had peacefully resolved the issues in Renton but now a Seattle Times article indicates that is not the case. I might have misheard them, but this is the impression I had. Was Burien misled?

From the Seattle Times article about Renton's 5-2 decision to remove the DESC use at Red Lion, the article seemed to me to indicate that King County Executive Constantine is disappointed that the suburban cities are not helping with the homeless crises as hoped. Why the expectation of cooperation from suburban cities? What burden of responsibility does Burien have when the primary problem with regional homelessness is a result of addiction and gentrification in Seattle? And why does Burien need 92 permanent places for homeless when this city has only a little more than 60 permanent homeless? My question is why does the county desire to put these uses into the suburbs? Burien and Renton are primarily populated with residential uses, are poor cities and Burien is not well equipped financially or with enough staff to deal with the service needs and admitted uptick in 911 calls. Burien seems to not even be able to take care of ourselves without increasing utility taxes which hurt the majority of minority and low-income residents the most. This tax increase during a pandemic exhibits a desperation on the part of the city to obtain more revenue because it was done at the worst possible time to the most vulnerable and hurting groups.

It makes me wonder if Burien is just acting as a willing patsy for things the majority of residents and businesses don't want and don't need but what the county wants them to take on. I wonder whether the county is trying to move every problem they have allowed into the poorer cities of the south end to help them continue to court elitists into wealthier north and eastside cities. This is the second major homelessness land use to come to Burien in just a few short years. And this to a city with a fabulous program that has done an outstanding job meeting the majority of the needs of Burien's small homeless population for over a decade. Transform Burien, which takes no city money and relies 100% on volunteer labor, donations and mental health and other agency services, is known by city staff, but the council does not volunteer or make an effort to get to know the Burien homeless who are served. They are not the same as those DESC normally serve and they are not at all like the tent campers of Seattle.

Many neighbors and friends I have are upset with the direction of the city. Many want to leave because they are afraid of what will happen next. Maybe this sounds like one side of a political debate where you wish to only listen to the few

revolutionaries that are openly vocal in Burien. But these troubles are not said so much because people want to live in peace and don't want to poke the bear. It doesn't matter so much to me because most of you know where I stand. I've been around a lot longer than all of you and saw a quieter, gentler town who wanted to be independent from the thumb of the county, cool, green, artsy and unique and to shape our own destiny. You seem to want controversial, experimental, detrimental to the majority and just don't care much about the average person you represent.

Debi Wagner

## Kim Bui

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**From:** Diane Waldrop <dkhenley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 4:26 PM  
**To:** Info; Daniel Malone; council@burienwa.gov  
**Subject:** DESC facility, 801 SW 150th Burien

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I've recently learned of the consideration for the opening of a large homeless facility in the small town of Burien. A facility such as this would be to the detriment of our small town. I spend my money in Burien and am very much aware of the homeless situation in this town and there is no way we need a facility the size of what is proposed. If the idea is to fill it with homeless drug addicts and mentally ill men from other parts of the region I wonder what is the benefit to our community. Please do not invite more problems to this community with such a facility. We have bought a home here and want to safely raise our family. Something like this will endanger the safety of everyone in our community and kill the commerce of the downtown area. Burien does not need this.

Thank you,

Diane Henley

## Kim Bui

---

**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 8:58 PM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren; Sondra Nielsen  
**Subject:** Fwd: comments for the DESC March 23, 2021 community meeting

FYI  
Maria

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**From:** chestine edgar <16collingham@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** Info; Megan Gregor; Heather Dumlao; Kevin Schilling; Nancy Tosta; Jimmy Matta; Pedro Olguin; Sofia Aragon; Cydney Moore; Burien City Council; Daniel Malone  
**Cc:** Garmon Newsom II; Brian Wilson; Susan McLain  
**Subject:** comments for the DESC March 23, 2021 community meeting

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please include this in Correspondence to the Council

RE-Comments for the March 23, 2021 Second DESC community meeting

March 22, 2021

To DESC, Dan Malone and the City of Burien including the Burien City Council;

This letter is intended to present my ongoing concerns with the alleged proposed DESC Housing Demonstration Project at 801 sw 150<sup>nd</sup>, Burien, WA., DESC informational meetings and the historical information that Burien residents have been told about this project. As I understand what is going on here, DESC has applied to be accepted as a Housing Demonstration Project. Additionally, I understood these projects (when they were added to the Comp Plan), they were intended to be new innovations in housing that might require variances or exceptions to current development codes or land uses in the city. I did not see DESC discuss or present what innovations would qualify their project for this status. This project appears to be just a repeat of the other 13 it has already put in in Seattle. Has this project already been accepted as a Housing Demonstration Project? Could you please provide me with the city link that states that? DESC has already announced on its website that they are starting work on this project in 2021. Another section of the DESC website claims this project will begin building in early, 2022? And if this already a "done deal" with the current?/previous owner? property owner and the City of Burien, "Why was the public only notified of this project on Feb. 9 2021?". <https://b-townblog.com/2021/02/09/desc-planning-new-affordable-housing-development-in-burien-public-meeting-is-feb-23/>. Yet the March 1, 2021 DESC housing informational outreach program report claims that. "In August 2020, DESC entered into a purchase and sale agreement with the seller of the Burien Professional Center at 801 SW 150th St, Burien, WA 98166 and intends to build a 95-unit homeless housing development on the site." What is the real status of this project with the city? The information about this project has not been transparent and open to the public.



The questions this raises with residents is: "Has DESC really purchased this property? , Has DESC been accepted as a Housing Demonstration Project?;" If it has not been accepted yet why is the City of Burien using its resources and staff to host meetings at city cost? Historically, I don't recall the city doing the PR and meeting hosting for other developers, why now?

It appeared in DESC's announcement about their project is that they were now just seeking community input on their project. However according to their March 1, 2021 report, they claimed they had already gathered community input from various sources prior to when most Burien residents were unaware of. If DESC really wanted community input on the project, why didn't they openly announce they were activity seeking from the broader community? Of the few comments DESC claims to have gotten they are not shown in their March1,2021 report. It is not clear why not of all of these community comments were not documented in the report, if this report is intended to be the public record of the outreach efforts.

What is happening with these community outreach meetings is reminiscent of the sleazy single community meeting (May, 2018) Mary's Place held with Burien residents to announce it was bringing its homeless shelter to Burien. Mary's Place was never open and transparent on who really owned the property they claimed they were purchasing. Mary's Place failed to inform Burien residents, the Burien City Council and the media that it had already gotten grant funding from the State of Washington in Feb.2018 to purchase the building site and then in a very quiet and sneaky manner only told the Council it was going to bring a homeless shelter to Burien in March,2018. It still remains unclear why this wasn't announced to the general public and residents then. It didn't ask, it told the council they would have the homeless shelter. But strangely, the majority of the homeless at the site would not be from Burien-214+ homeless people mostly not from Burien to be brought in every 90 days. . It used the excuse that Mary's Place came to Burien because Burien had so many homeless children in the city's schools-1,200+. A false piece of information provided to them by a council member. A fact that Mary's Place conveniently failed to fact check.

Mary's Place failed to inform Burien residents and Council members that they had written a second grant (again requesting state taxpayer dollars) to pay off the major portion of their mortgage by titling their Grant- Burien Mary's Place, South King County Homeless Hub. Most Burien residents and several Burien Council members were unaware that Burien was now going to be the homeless hub for South King County and State money was going to be used to facilitate it.. Further the City of Burien allowed Mary's Place( that was now housing their most disabled clients at this site) to open the shelter without adequate ADA access accommodations to the building to and from the street and it had inadequate and unsafe sidewalks to meet the standards required of State grant money. Disabled homeless people were uncontrolled rolling out into street traffic for approx. one year. When residents asked at the informational meeting what could they do about this land use application and shelter site in that location, they were told by the Burien Community Development Director that basically they had no rights, "Nothing could be done". Of course that was legally untrue. Based on that experience, I and other residents raise this question to DESC, Is there again secret State or county grant money that has been already given or promised to DESC to place this shelter in Burien? And If yes, who (what state legislator or county executive or Burien Council member) has promoted and sponsored the grant application and lobbied money from the State? What is the \$ amount? And what Burien homelessness population data was included in the grant application? The March 1, DESC report only mentions that someone told them Burien had homeless and needed this shelter? What politician, government agency or ecumenical group provided that data and actual population count? What were the actual numbers and when were the counts done that served as the basis for DESC to buy land and put a shelter in Burien? Will there be another strange, non-transparent map model as used by the Burien Planning Dept. (but not openly disclosed to the public) as in the Mary's Place amendment that will be used to justify the DESC housing project?

And are the Burien residents going to see the same kind of activities from DESC that Mary's Place used to secure votes for its Land Use amendment such as; offering jobs to council members for their vote as was the case with Mary's Place, Linda Mitchell offering Council member Krystal Marx employment before the vote was taken? Or secretly holding proposed meetings with council members (Matta, Olguin) who worked for unions and promising to give construction jobs on Mary's Place to only unions only a couple days prior to the vote on the amendment were taken? Or a couple of

council members (Marx and Bell who leaked information about mailing the council had received) urging their selected group of minions to override the comments of other residents who opposed the Mary Place site? This has already happened again with the most recent posting on the B-Town Blog-<https://b-townblog.com/2021/03/22/letter-65-community-members-show-support-for-new-desc-burien-housing-project/> . And contrary to what this petition ( that has just been put out yesterday to influence this upcoming meeting) says, no one has recently or has currently died in Burien waiting for this shelter to be placed here-“It cannot wait; people are dying for us to address it. Literally.”-B-Town Blog.

Many of the petition minion signers are the same group of people who signed a petition to approve the rezone for Mary’s Place. They even didn’t realize it was not a rezone action but in their “sheep-al”like mentality they just repeated rezone over and over; they supported the rezone amendment.

Further as justification, the petition signers claim, “With over 14 other housing developments, DESC knows the value of being a good neighbor,” However, many people who live and work in proximity to DESC housing/shelters do not believe it is a GOOD NEIGHBOR as was just evidenced in the Renton situation.

As I have stated previously, I don’t oppose homeless shelters in general. But as only 16% of the homeless reside in South King County and now Burien has been targeted a second time in just a couple of years for still another homeless shelter; this violates the general principle of the KC Comp Plan goals and the PSRC goals being that low income populations should be equally distributed in the county. And that is clearly not the case with what is going on with the placements of these shelters in Burien. Also, if DESC were honest and transparent on this issue, other South King County cities have larger homeless populations than Burien and DESC should have targeted them for their shelter expansion outside of Seattle. Where is the equal distribution model as advocated by PSRC or KC for homeless shelter in South King County cities or all KC cities? How is DESC using that “equal” model to select site locations?

Further, research and working models by other successful homeless projects in other states shows that homeless shelters housing the types of populations with the needs that DESC includes in all of their other Seattle shelters are best located in industrial-commercial areas and not in close proximity to residential neighborhoods or in area where the city is trying to develop or restore a downtown core or emerging economic development. Burien has some of those kinds of lands over by the Suburban Sewer district offices that research wise are much better suited to their homeless housing model.. So it remains perplexing why DESC would have selected the site adjacent to residential neighborhoods and right at the edge of the downtown core Burien is trying develop. Was that the only building for sale in Burien?

DESC doesn’t need that 150<sup>th</sup> site as it claims. Its program and services for its residents are self-contained. It doesn’t need close proximity to downtown or residential neighborhoods. It really is not offering any services to all Burien only to DESC clients. I oppose this DESC project site because of the location selected, the possible danger and health and safety issues from the DESC residents; their behavior problems, mental health issues and the substance abuse issues they exhibit both inside and outside of their housing sites( as happens at the DESC buildings in Seattle to their adjacent neighboring residents and businesses). Every one of the DESC Seattle housing sites has resulted in an uptick in emergency calls, police calls and need for city services. Who is going to pay the city for these added service costs? DESC Resident’s substance abuse issues are apparent and problematic both inside and outside the housing. Other surrounding residents are fearful for their health, safety and property safety as a result of behaviors displayed and actions by the DESC housed residents. Who is going to compensate these neighboring residents and businesses for the loss of their property, property values and potential bodily harm? This resulting property revenue tax loss, who is going to compensate the city budget for that? DESC is a nonprofit. So this once tax generating business building on 150th now will pay no property taxes to the city and generate no revenues for the city. How many of these nonprofits should a poor city like Burien have sucking off revenues from the downtown business core of the city? When other more appropriate sites are available in the city for homeless housing and their population needs? While demanding high levels of city services and contributing no tax revenues? The main source of revenue for the Burien city budget is property taxes.

As I have not seen the actual homeless data DESC is presuming to work from, I would say this shelter possibly could be needed in Burien at some time in the future (but not on this scale) and it is most likely to an attractive magnet for

homeless from other South King County cities or Seattle or will be an overflow DESC dump site of Seattle homeless into Burien? Most significantly, the location/neighborhood/area of the city that this DESC housing is being put in is wrong/very poorly and inappropriately selected and presents a health and safety risk to others living and working in that area of the city. If placed there, It will be the Dementor's Kiss to that section of the city.

Many things are questionable about the alleged need, process and area selected for this DESC homeless shelter in Burien. For that reason, I am submitting this letter opposing the DESC homeless shelter in this section of Burien and as a city Housing Demonstration Project. Please place it on record as comments submitted to the March 23, 2021 DESC community outreach meeting.

Respectfully,

Dr.C.Edgar

## Kim Bui

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**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 3:06 PM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren  
**Subject:** FW: documentation related to my DESC letter of 3-23-21

**Categories:** Burien

FYI

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**Maria Jacinto**

Executive Coordinator

Pronouns: She/Her

DESC Administrative Office

515 Third Avenue

206-464-1570 x3082

*I am currently working remotely EXCEPT on Tuesday and Thursday*

[desc.org](http://desc.org)

**Housing First Partners Conference is going VIRTUAL in 2021!**

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**From:** chestine edgar [mailto:16collingham@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 2:55 PM

**To:** Megan Gregor <megang@burienwa.gov>; Heather Dumlao <HeatherD@burienwa.gov>; Burien City Council <council@burienwa.gov>; Kevin Schilling <kevins@burienwa.gov>; Cydney Moore <cydneym@burienwa.gov>; Jimmy Matta <jimmym@burienwa.gov>; Nancy Tosta <nancyt@burienwa.gov>; Pedro Olguin <pedroo@burienwa.gov>; Sofia Aragon <sofiaa@burienwa.gov>

**Cc:** Garmon Newsom II <GarmonN@burienwa.gov>; Brian Wilson <brianw@burienwa.gov>; Susan McLain <SusanM@burienwa.gov>; Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>; Info <info@desc.org>

**Subject:** documentation related to my DESC letter of 3-23-21

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please place this in Correspondence to the Council

To The Burien City Council and DESC;

This is supporting documentation to the letter I sent in on March 23, 2021 for the DESC community meeting-

## 1. Regarding the condition of the DESC housing and shelters- FB media source and B-Town Blog editorial and what community and media sources think

"A DESC shelter in Burien is not a good idea.-3-23-21

Krystal Marx and probably several other Burien CMs feel that it is Burien's duty to take on more emergency shelter and low-income housing projects. Why? That's not clear, but one reason might be for the money they expect will follow these projects into town. Burien's in a slump now, and this might be how they think it's going to get out.

Another reason they want more housing projects and shelters could be that they feel Burien has a moral obligation to do it, just like Krystal thinks it's Burien's duty to care for every homeless person and drug addict who turns up. ("If they're here, they're ours," she's said.)

What is that based on? It's anyone's guess. No one seems to know what Burien's share of the burden is or whether we're meeting it or not. When we asked Ms. Marx how many shelter beds and low-income/subsidized units there are here, she couldn't say, and she didn't indicate any interest in finding out. One would think she and the other CMs would have that kind of information at the tip of their fingers. They should know just how many housing units of all types Burien has and where they are. And they should have similar data for other similarly sized cities in the region. They should also have at their fingertips independently and honestly produced data showing how many of Burien's homeless became homeless here and they should be willing to share that with the public so that any claims to the effect that Burienites are losing their homes here can be verified. That is the kind of information that the city should be sharing at minimum before they even begin to discuss putting another shelter here. But of course, they don't have that kind of data, and even if they did, they wouldn't share it with the rest of us.

Even if the need for another homeless shelter in Burien could be justified, the Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC) should not be selected to manage it. DESC is a huge, Seattle-based operation, and it is subject to the same problems that other overburdened homeless service providers are. Staff turnover is high there, and that is because it's a terrible job, one where management doesn't hire enough people and doesn't give the ones they have the tools they need to do the job. DESC takes on the most hardened and service-resistant homeless people. They take literally everyone, from psychotics to drug users to violent recidivist felons. If they had the resources to place those folks in secure environments and give them the attention they need, they could expect a modicum of success, but since they don't have the resources (and likely never will) they end up merely warehousing their clients, with disastrous results for the communities in which they operate.

Take a look at this video, which was sent to me by a homeless man who tried to stay at the DESC's Morrison Hotel facility in downtown Seattle two years ago. This guy wasn't delicate; he was used to sleeping on the street amid filth and drug use. But he told me that he couldn't endure a single night at the Morrison because it was absolute bedlam. Since they were overbooked the night he came there, they told him he'd have had to sleep in the hallway, among people who were actively using drugs, in some cases with the knowledge of DESC staff. When he went to the bathroom, it was smeared with feces.

[https://roominate.com/safe\\_seattle/DESC/DESC-Shelter.mp4](https://roominate.com/safe_seattle/DESC/DESC-Shelter.mp4)

When you watch the video, you can see how badly overwhelmed the staff are. They're not bad people, they just can't manage the people they take on with the personnel they have on hand.

I sent the video to DESC's director, Daniel Malone, and I promised him I wouldn't air it until after he had a chance to address the problems and get back to me so I could take a tour and see that he'd made changes. We chatted about it a couple times, but he never did get back to me to demonstrate how he'd remediated the problems identified in the video. Since then, I've talked to DESC staff who reached out to me and told me that not only are things still bad at the Morrison but that these scenes are not untypical for other DESC units around Seattle, and I have seen video and still photos of units that have been utterly trashed by DESC residents who are not getting the proper care they need.

Although I had the right to release this video sooner, I held off on publishing it because I felt bad for Malone (he was trying, after all) and also because I could never seem to find the right context. But now, with DESC planning to expand into Burien, the time is right. There's no reason to think that DESC's Burien operation would be different from any of their other sites, and given the pliant, reckless, and downright crooked nature of this council, it could turn out even worse." Seattle FB Media source

The source attached to this letter is a video of how bad the sanity and public health safety conditions are in some of DESC housing and shelters. Contrary to DESC's comments to the community, things are not clean and safe inside their buildings. The conditions seen in the video are a result of inadequate staffing, funding and of some of the drug use methods they endorse and supply drugs and equipment for—such as "booty bumping" aka butt chugging, keistering and boofing.

Facts about- Booty bumping involves mixing drugs—usually meth or cocaine—with water and squirting it into your butt/anus/ass/rectum through a syringe without a needle at the end. If you're considering this way to use, or maybe want to learn how to do it more safely, read on for what we know about the technique, the risks and potential harms, the possible benefits, and more.

People booty bump so that they can avoid injecting, because injecting drugs can cause skin/vein damage and can be painful. If you booty bump, you won't end up with "tracks" on your arms and may be less likely to end up with scabs, sores and other abscesses on your skin. People also may booty bump so that they can avoid snorting drugs, which can damage your nose, or avoid smoking, which can damage your lungs. But It is not really a safer method for using drugs.

Also, you'll likely experience stronger effects of the drug if you booty bump (than if, for example, you swallow your drugs). The rectum happens to be very efficient at absorbing a high percentage of a drug into your bloodstream—which is why some medications are administered through the rectum. Some people do it as a recreational activity with a friend. Playing around in the anal/rectal area gives some people a sexual high also. This gives some people double the high. Booty bumping has a very high "bioavailability" rate compared to other routes of administration. That means that a higher percentage of the drug gets into your system with booty bumping, than for example, if you smoke your drugs.

Some people will simply insert the drug in their ass/rectum without mixing it in water. This is called "dabbing" or "stuffing" if the drug is wrapped in a rolling paper. It is less physically damaging to booty bump if you first mix your drugs in water. Draw the liquid up with a clean syringe (with the needle removed). Some people also use lube injectors (lube shooters or lube launchers) to booty bump, which can be even more effective than syringes because they are designed specifically for placing fluids into the rectal cavity.

The health dangers and problems this process produces are as follows:

- torn or damaged rectal tissue causing increased vulnerability to STDs, AIDS, Hepatitis and other infections
- persistent diarrhea
- constant anal leakage from loss of muscle tone and control-of fecal matter leakage
- decreased blood circulation
- absorption of toxic ingredients cut into meth batches
- elevated risk of overdose if the drug is more concentrated than normal or prepared improperly
- breathing difficulty
- chest or stomach pain
- elevated body temperature
- rapid or irregular pulse

- paranoia
- psychosis, including delusions or hallucinations
- sweaty, flushed skin
- seizures

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Source- B-Town Blog-

[LETTER: Resident has concerns about DESC’s proposed Burien project](#)

Mar 4, 2021 | [Burien](#), [Burien News](#), [Featured Post](#), [Health & Wellness](#), [Homelessness](#), [Letters to the Editor](#), [News](#), [Opinion](#)

**[EDITOR’S NOTE:** *The following is a Letter to the Editor, written by a verified resident. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of The B-Town Blog, nor its staff:]*

The intent of DESC to construct a 95 unit apartment complex in the center of Burien is worth our community’s serious attention on many levels.

First, this plan lacks compassion for those who have landed in the life of the street. These are real people. They were created with a purpose, with gifts, and with the capacity to live a full life as a contributing member of society. Anything less than a determined and purposeful engagement with these folks leads to an outcome that is not compassion.

DESC, in their own words, is committed to the paradigm of “harm reduction.” It is a cruel fatalism. According to this model, we only need to give these folks a safe, clean and warm place to exist, to manage the damage. The restoration of person and purpose, the honoring of their capacity to create or teach or provide value to others is negated. They are virtually hindered from becoming contributing members of our community. This is an elitist and condescending attitude. It is also the easy way out for communities that adopt it. Just pay the money.

Yet we know that there are programs that bring genuine healing to the broken; that restore their dignity as a human and give them the fulfillment of living for something other than the next fix. We have evidence of programs in which over 70% of the participants transition into a productive and fulfilling life, restored as vital, contributing community members. One effective care provider insists the problem is not a lack of houses, but “a catastrophic lack of relationship.” The programs that actually provide true help and change for the street population do it through community, relationship and sheer numbers of volunteers, not by state-run facility projects. If we accept anything less than that, we have opted out of compassion and courage.

Second, if you wonder where this is leading, just go into downtown Seattle. DESC has been part of the chaos and growing brokenness created by the misguided “compassion industry.” In Burien, we have roughly 35 homeless folks. Our city has led the region with some courageous policies that have given the homeless an opportunity to enter onto the path of healing. If our city needs more engagement from the Burien community — the faith based community, citizen groups, or the army of retired folks — to expand their efforts to engage with the homeless, then let’s hear that call. This is a Burien issue. This would be not only heartless to the homeless in Burien who might be lured into these ineffective “solutions,” but it also enables the backward tactics they are imposing on Seattle, our neighbor. It is not wise on our part to facilitate this industry when more productive, purposeful options exist for the homeless.

Finally, this is not compassionate to the surrounding Burien community: the elderly in nearby Merrill Gardens and the men, women and children living in Seahurst, Chelsea Park, downtown Burien who will encounter mostly unemployed

folks who are provided free needles and condoms. We have a responsibility to the vulnerable in our city and allowing this building complex is not standing for them. Nor do we fully understand the impact on our already strained police and emergency services.

Fellow Burien residents, let's lean into a solution for our city's homeless, those who struggle on the street that moves them to healing. But, let's do this ourselves, together. Duplicating measurably ineffective — and even damaging — programs is not offering real compassion to our homeless population.

– Martin Barrett

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Regarding the actual number of homeless in Burien-**

1. August 23, 2019 <https://www.city-journal.org/reducing-street-homelessness-burien-washington>

2. Where are the Point in Time and One night homeless counts for 2019, 2020 for Burien? Someone has them but is not showing them to the Burien public or in this DESC project discussion?

### **Regarding Call out to Council members minions (by two Council members) to flood meeting with letters for Mary's Place rezone which was not really a rezone- 12-6-18. And how this relates to DESC**

1. Irene Danysh (coached by two Council members to flood the council with emails to override other resident comments on an issue that Irene didn't really understand). Mary's Place (Burien Hill, LLC) amendment request was not a rezone and it was not about 200 affordable housing units. It was about changing the Land Use Map--12-06-2018. Note this call for letters to flood the council is composed of many of the same minions now posting a petition for DESC support.

\*\*\*\*\*

From: Irene Danysh <[iredanysh@gmail.com](mailto:iredanysh@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Dec 6, 2018, 11:24 AM

Subject: S.O.S. BURIEN COULD VOTE NO ON 200 UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

To: Irene Danysh <[iredanysh@gmail.com](mailto:iredanysh@gmail.com)>

Cc: Sarah Moore <[antwatcher@comcast.net](mailto:antwatcher@comcast.net)>, Jagoda Perich-Anderson <[jperichanderson@gmail.com](mailto:jperichanderson@gmail.com)>, Shalom R. Agtarap <[shalom.remorca@gmail.com](mailto:shalom.remorca@gmail.com)>, Mergitu Argo <[mergitu@weareoneamerica.org](mailto:mergitu@weareoneamerica.org)>, Amaranta Ibarra-Sandys <[artmaranth@hotmail.com](mailto:artmaranth@hotmail.com)>, Andi Newman <[newman.and@gmail.com](mailto:newman.and@gmail.com)>, Ariel Alon <[ariel.b.alon@gmail.com](mailto:ariel.b.alon@gmail.com)>, Artūras Floria <[arturas.floria@gmail.com](mailto:arturas.floria@gmail.com)>, Beatrice van Tulder <[beatrice.vantulder@gmail.com](mailto:beatrice.vantulder@gmail.com)>, Rebecca and Bill <[rdare2@yahoo.com](mailto:rdare2@yahoo.com)>, Mel Briggs <[mel.j.briggs@gmail.com](mailto:mel.j.briggs@gmail.com)>, Theresa Crecelius <[tcrecel@gmail.com](mailto:tcrecel@gmail.com)>, Cydney <[sensiblecapitolhill@gmail.com](mailto:sensiblecapitolhill@gmail.com)>, Caryl N. Utigard <[gcme@msn.com](mailto:gcme@msn.com)>, margaret cary <[margaretbcary@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbcary@gmail.com)>, Juan P. Cordova <[jcordova09@gmail.com](mailto:jcordova09@gmail.com)>, Charles Schaefer <[charlesschaefer89@gmail.com](mailto:charlesschaefer89@gmail.com)>, Eduardo de Lamadrid <[translingual@msn.com](mailto:translingual@msn.com)>, Shannon Dowdy <[shannon.dowdy@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.dowdy@gmail.com)>, Vesna!! Danh <[vesnadan50@gmail.com](mailto:vesnadan50@gmail.com)>, Don West <[elephantflier@gmail.com](mailto:elephantflier@gmail.com)>, David Feinberg <[david@purejuicers.com](mailto:david@purejuicers.com)>, Sokha Danh <[danhsockha@gmail.com](mailto:danhsockha@gmail.com)>, Jennifer Fichamba <[jenniferfichamba@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferfichamba@yahoo.com)>, Natalia Fialkoff <[n.babyshoe@gmail.com](mailto:n.babyshoe@gmail.com)>, Jen Greenstein <[spiritwarrior@hotmail.com](mailto:spiritwarrior@hotmail.com)>, Grace Stiller <[gracestiller@comcast.net](mailto:gracestiller@comcast.net)>, Georgia Henney <[gimageorgia@comcast.net](mailto:gimageorgia@comcast.net)>, Steven Hofer <[savage.h@gmail.com](mailto:savage.h@gmail.com)>, Jeppa Hall <[jeppahall@gmail.com](mailto:jeppahall@gmail.com)>, Kathy Hazen <[kathyhazen@hotmail.com](mailto:kathyhazen@hotmail.com)>, Vicky Hartley <[missvickyh@gmail.com](mailto:missvickyh@gmail.com)>, Nancy Kick <[imagination.celebration@gmail.com](mailto:imagination.celebration@gmail.com)>, Jenny Partch <[jenny.highlineumc@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.highlineumc@gmail.com)>, <[juangaytanvasquez@gmail.com](mailto:juangaytanvasquez@gmail.com)>, Karen McMichael <[kmcmich@msn.com](mailto:kmcmich@msn.com)>, Kate Richardson <[riverchat\\_kr@hotmail.com](mailto:riverchat_kr@hotmail.com)>, Kate Ragsdale <[kathryn.ragsdale@highlineschools.org](mailto:kathryn.ragsdale@highlineschools.org)>, Lee Moyer <[MoyerLA@aol.com](mailto:MoyerLA@aol.com)>, Lorna Velasco <[lvelasco@swyfs.org](mailto:lvelasco@swyfs.org)>, Lina Thompson <[linathompson14@gmail.com](mailto:linathompson14@gmail.com)>, Anne Marie Littleton



<[anamarialittleton@gmail.com](mailto:anamarialittleton@gmail.com)>, Cesar Linares <[cesarml04@gmail.com](mailto:cesarml04@gmail.com)>, Michael Williams <[williams.mike.g@gmail.com](mailto:williams.mike.g@gmail.com)>, Pat Moris <[patmoris10@gmail.com](mailto:patmoris10@gmail.com)>, <[noapathy@gmail.com](mailto:noapathy@gmail.com)>, Roxana Pardo Garcia <[rox.pg90@gmail.com](mailto:rox.pg90@gmail.com)>, Rupika Madhavan(home) <[rupika.madhavan@gmail.com](mailto:rupika.madhavan@gmail.com)>, Phil Wood-Smith <[philwoodsmith@gmail.com](mailto:philwoodsmith@gmail.com)>, Gretchen Lemon <[gretchenglemon@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenglemon@gmail.com)>, <[monaoliver@hotmail.com](mailto:monaoliver@hotmail.com)>, <[trinacurry@hotmail.com](mailto:trinacurry@hotmail.com)>, <[suekesler73@gmail.com](mailto:suekesler73@gmail.com)>, Sonja Sivesind <[sonjajosund@gmail.com](mailto:sonjajosund@gmail.com)>, <[nina@latinocivicalliance.org](mailto:nina@latinocivicalliance.org)>, <[marie\\_bravo@outlook.com](mailto:marie_bravo@outlook.com)>, <[julissas@tenantsunion.org](mailto:julissas@tenantsunion.org)>, Hugo <[hugogarcia30@gmail.com](mailto:hugogarcia30@gmail.com)>

Dear friends!

Two Burien City Councilors are telling us that A MINORITY of City Council are YES votes for the Mary's Place. The request is to rezone their 4.5 acres on Ambaum for high density to partner with a developer to build 200 units of affordable housing. The 4th crucial vote is undecided and under pressure.

There is A LOT of pressure to vote NO. They vote in a few days - 17th Dec, Monday. We need affordable housing badly!

PLEASE write even a 3-line letter TODAY to [council@burienwa.gov](mailto:council@burienwa.gov). (Sample below.)

Councilors and Mayor say they don't have many letters for a YES! But they have over 100 for NO.

Cut and paste the below if you want::

[Council@burien.wa.gov](mailto:Council@burien.wa.gov)

**Subject: Vote YES on Mary's Place**

**I strongly urge the Council to vote YES on the Planning Commission 4-1 Recommendation to allow Mary's Place property to be rezoned for high density. Our city badly needs affordable housing. Housing ends homelessness. Because of high rents, too many neighbors are struggling to feed their families, and meet school and health needs.**

**The Vision for Burien's future must include sufficient affordable housing, Mary's Place offers one of the best chances we have. Thank you.**

Please do write! :) (Even if you've written before.:))

In solidarity,  
Irene

## 2. Indivisible Actions Southend (IASE)

**Theresa Crecelius is with Irene Danysh.**

December 6 at 11:35 AM

Call to submit comments to Burien Council regarding affordable housing! Please email them by Dec. 17th. The request is to rezone their 4.5 acres on Ambaum for high density to partner with a developer to build 200 units of affordable housing. The 4th crucial vote on the council is undecided and under pressure.

There is A LOT of pressure to vote NO. They vote in a few days - 17th Dec, Monday. We need affordable housing badly!

PLEASE write even a 3-line letter TODAY to [council@burienwa.gov](mailto:council@burienwa.gov). (Sample below.)

Councilors and Mayor say they don't have many letters for a YES! But they have over 100 for NO.

Cut and paste the below if you want:

I strongly urge the Council to vote YES on the Planning Commission 4-1 Recommendation (PLA 18-0533) to allow Mary's

Place property to be rezoned for high density. Our city badly needs affordable housing. Housing ends homelessness. Because of high rents, too many neighbors are struggling to feed their families, and meet school and health needs.

The Vision for Burien's future must include sufficient affordable housing, Mary's Place offers one of the best chances we have. Thank you.

Omaha Sternberg shared a [link](#).

[14 hrs](#)

IASE Daily Action and upcoming events

Hi, <<First Name>>,

**Trump's war on the homeless** has come to our own town. Right now the **Burien City Council is considering whether to rezone** a location, called "**Mary's Place**", for **high density affordable housing**. However, the majority of the single-family housing residents are against the move. In today's Daily Action, we will push back and make sure that **Burien supports affordable housing!**

Also, below is a list of events that you might want to consider attending to help make that little change to the country's political environment. **Many little steps lead to big change!**

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## Daily Action

One week from this Monday (December 17th) the Burien City Council will be voting on whether to rezone the location known as Mary's Place into high-density affordable housing. However, a vocal minority of single-family homeowners in the area are very against this. Burien cannot solve their homeless problem without affordable housing. And single-family residents opposed to rezoning can't afford simply say "not in my backyard".

At this point, word is that only 3 of the 7 Burien City councilmembers are in favor of this rezoning. We must work hard in the next 10 days to make sure that the rest understand that a small minority should not dictate the right to the homeless and poor to affordable housing simply because they don't want "those people" in their community!

They don't have many letters for a YES vote, but they have over 100 for a NO vote. Let's see if we can pass that margin! You can use the template below to write to the city council, or you can modify it as needed.

Email: [council@burienwa.gov](mailto:council@burienwa.gov)

Mail: 400 SW 152nd St., Suite 300, Burien, WA 98166

To: The Burien City Council.

Subject: Vote YES on Mary's Place

*I strongly urge the Council to vote YES on the Planning Commission 4-1 Recommendation to allow Mary's Place property to be rezoned for high density. Our city badly needs affordable housing. Housing ends homelessness. Because of high rents, too many neighbors are struggling to feed their families, and meet school and health needs.*

*The Vision for Burien's future must include sufficient affordable housing, Mary's Place offers one of the best chances we have. Thank you.*

Thanks to [Theresa Crecelius](#) for updating us on this important issue!

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally, we are again seeing this call out/a petition by a small selected group of historical council member minions to push hard for this DESC Shelter in our struggling downtown area. This DESC site will not improve the economic development in this highest \$ value, potential economic development area of our city. It will remove tax revenue generating lands from the tax roll. The DESC Burien Operation is Non-Profit and won't pay real estate taxes. DESC has confirmed that King County will control the actual resident selection process and not the City of Burien. There will be increased drug use, increased calls for emergency services in that area and increased crime--as is true of what all of the other DESC housing and shelters generate. This DESC Shelter will cost Burien residents far more because of the increased need for city services and the tax revenues it does not generate. This DESC shelter will be much closer to schools, day cares, single family residential housing than in their other Seattle sites. There are public health and safety issues associated with DESC locating at this site. For the above stated reasons, this an inappropriate site for DESC in Burien and a costly location for Burien taxpayers to provide increased services to. For those reasons, I am opposed to it being built and operated in that Burien location.

Respectfully,

Dr.C.Edgar

## Kim Bui

---

**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 8:15 AM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren; Sondra Nielsen  
**Subject:** FW: No to the 150th St. shelter

FYI

Julie and Sondra, let me know if you want me to cc you each time I forward similar messages to Kim.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Janis Lemert [mailto:janislemert@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 8:47 PM  
**To:** Info <info@desc.org>; Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>; atcouncil@burienwa.gov  
**Subject:** No to the 150th St. shelter

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are business owners of Burien counseling. We have years of experience working with people with mental health issues and the homeless. This particular shelter is not set up for success in its current location. We ask that you do not set up a shelter in this location or in the town of Burien.

Sincerely,

Drayton and Janis Lemert

## Kim Bui

---

**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:01 PM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren  
**Subject:** FW: DESC proposed location in Burien.

FYI

-----

### **Maria Jacinto**

Executive Coordinator

Pronouns: She/Her

DESC Administrative Office

515 Third Avenue

206-464-1570 x3082

*I am currently working remotely EXCEPT on Tuesday and Thursday*

[desc.org](http://desc.org)

**Housing First Partners Conference is going VIRTUAL in 2021!**

**April 20 & 21, 2021 – REGISTER NOW!**

For more information, visit [hfpartnersconference.com](http://hfpartnersconference.com)

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**From:** Joel Manning [mailto:joelamanning@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:05 PM  
**To:** Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>; council@burienwa.gov; Info <info@desc.org>  
**Subject:** DESC proposed location in Burien.

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

TO all concerned,

There is no way that 801 SW 150th in Burien, or any other location in the core of Burien, is right for the type of homeless facility proposed by DESC. This facility will present a risk to individuals and businesses as it is proposed to house single males, a demographic of homeless who are known to be hard cases and addicts. These individuals present a serious risk to the surrounding residential population and local businesses. To propose such a facility for the core of our small city borders on insanity.

In addition, in no way does Burien have a homeless population of such a size to warrant this facility. This can mean only one thing, Burien will be taking on homeless individuals from Seattle and King

County at large. You are making Burien take on the homelessness problems that have resulted from the failure of other municipalities. We can't afford the cost or the negative impact to our city. This is absolutely the wrong thing to do.

Please do not allow this facility to be built in our community.

Regards,

Joel Manning

**Kim Bui**

---

**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 7:32 PM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren  
**Subject:** FW: Idea of Burien Homeless Shelter

FYI

-----

**Maria Jacinto**

Executive Coordinator

Pronouns: She/Her

DESC Administrative Office

515 Third Avenue

206-464-1570 x3082

*I am currently working remotely EXCEPT on Tuesday and Thursday*

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**Housing First Partners Conference is going VIRTUAL in 2021!**

**April 20 & 21, 2021 – REGISTER NOW!**

For more information, visit [hfpartnersconference.com](http://hfpartnersconference.com)

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**From:** Lauren Welch [mailto:[lauren.welch99@yahoo.com](mailto:lauren.welch99@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 6:03 PM

**Subject:** Idea of Burien Homeless Shelter

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

With regards to the proposed DESC facility to be located at 801 SW 150th, this would be a horrible decision for our city.

Such a facility would present a risk to everyone, business and individuals alike. It would render Downtown a place I wouldn't let my kids go alone, which is an activity we appreciate the most about this little community. To load our business core with single men struggling with addiction would be irresponsible and clearly not in the best interests of the city.

Further, the proposed facility is huge. Much bigger than would be required to house every homeless person in Burien, not just men. This tells me you would be filling this place with men from all over the region, and that little powerless Burien would be required to take on problems from other failing cities. We simply cannot afford to shoulder yet more troubles when we cannot even solve our current problems.

Please make the right choice for the citizens of Burien and do not allow this facility to be located here.

Thank you!

Lauren Welch



## Kim Bui

---

**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 8:18 AM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren; Sondra Nielsen  
**Subject:** FW: DESC Homeless Shelter Project

Maybe people against our project are describing our project as a shelter vs supportive housing.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** MARK SUSAN ANDERSON [mailto:marknsueand@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 7:29 PM  
**To:** council@burienwa.gov  
**Cc:** Info <info@desc.org>; Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>  
**Subject:** DESC Homeless Shelter Project

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

March 22, 2021

Hello Burien City Council,

I am a resident of Burien. Please add to the record that 801 SW 150th is not the right place for a homeless shelter in the City of Burien. Burien has a very small homeless population.

Sincerely,

Sharon Sue

Sent from my iPad

## Kim Bui

---

**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 8:19 AM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren; Sondra Nielsen  
**Subject:** FW: DESC

FYI

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**From:** Meli [mailto:meliodell40@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 7:19 AM  
**To:** Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>  
**Subject:** DESC

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not approve this homeless hotel in Burien. We do not need more trouble in our already troubled downtown.

## Kim Bui

---

**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 11:38 PM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed desc facility in burien

FYI

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**From:** Studio 360 [mailto:studio360@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 4:59 PM  
**To:** council@burienwa.gov; Info <info@desc.org>; Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>  
**Subject:** Proposed desc facility in burien

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Please reconsider your installation of this facility in burien. I am not in support of this facility being located in downtown Burien. there's much better places for a facilities such as this than downtown burien.

Regards  
mr. taylor

**Kim Bui**

---

**From:** Stacy Manning <fraumanning@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:56 PM  
**To:** Info; Daniel Malone; council@burienwa.gov  
**Subject:** No to DESC

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

With regards to the proposed DESC facility to be located at 801 SW 150th, this would be a horrible decision for our city.

Such a facility would present a risk to everyone, business and individuals alike. It would render Downtown a place I wouldn't let my kids go alone, which is an activity we appreciate the most about this little community. To load our business core with single men struggling with addiction would be irresponsible and clearly not in the best interests of the city.

Further, the proposed facility is huge. Much bigger than would be required to house every homeless person in Burien, not just men. This tells me you would be filling this place with men from all over the region, and that little powerless Burien would be required to take on problems from other failing cities. We simply cannot afford to shoulder yet more troubles when we cannot even solve our current problems.

Please make the right choice for the citizens of Burien and do not allow this facility to be located here.

Seriously,

Stacy Manning

## Kim Bui

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**From:** Tamera Duke <tameraduke@windermere.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 4:04 PM  
**To:** Info; Daniel Malone; council@burienwa.gov  
**Subject:** Huge Men's Homeless Facility in Burien is Unacceptable

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

You all were elected to protect the citizens of Burien!

"With regards to the proposed DESC facility to be located at 801 SW 150th, this would be a horrible decision for our city.

Such a facility would present a risk to everyone, business and individuals alike. It would render Downtown a place I wouldn't let my kids go alone, which is an activity we appreciate the most about this little community. To load our business core with single men struggling with addiction would be irresponsible and clearly not in the best interests of the city.

Further, the proposed facility is huge. Much bigger than would be required to house every homeless person in Burien, not just men. This tells me you would be filling this place with men from all over the region, and that little powerless Burien would be required to take on problems from other failing cities. We simply cannot afford to shoulder yet more troubles from other cities when we cannot even solve our own homegrown problems.

Please make the right choice for the citizens of Burien and do not allow this facility to be located here.

Please respect what the citizens in Burien want for our city!

Deeply Concerned Residents,  
Tamera and David Duke

**Kim Bui**

---

**From:** Tyson Varosyan <Tyson@utspro.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 6:05 PM  
**To:** Info; Daniel Malone; council@burienwa.gov  
**Subject:** DESC facility

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

With regards to the proposed DESC facility to be located at 801 SW 150th, this would be a horrible decision for our city. As a homeowner, business proprietor and employer in the City of Burien, I am strongly opposed to this facility and expansion of similar programs. They bring nothing of value to our community, exempt to serve as a magnet and enable the homeless population that they proport to serve. At the end of the day, the only ones they serve is themselves. They see the perpetrators as "clients" and as such, the people running these programs have no incentive to reduce homelessness, drug abuse, property crime, and other negative impacts on our community.

Despite the short-thinking and political ideology that has dominated our election landscape, I urge you to look at this with foresight. Any time political ideology is pushed too far to the left or the right, the pendulum of political sentiment will swing even harder in the opposite direction when the tipping point is reached. By pushing this far left, you will face a stronger backlash when this project and others like it will prove the far-right to be correct and swing the pendulum of public opinion the other way.

You were put into your positions for the betterment of our community. This project does not serve that purpose!

## **Tyson Varosyan**

Founder, CEO &  
Director of Technology  
[www.utspro.com](http://www.utspro.com)

## **Uptime Technical Solutions**

**1800 S.W. 152nd St. Suite 100 | Seattle, WA 98166 | Ph: 206 715 8324 (TECH)**

*UpTime/OnTime/AnyTime*

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## Kim Bui

---

**From:** Maria Jacinto  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 2:21 PM  
**To:** Kim Bui  
**Cc:** Julie Nordgren  
**Subject:** FW: DESC Facility

**Categories:** Burien

FYI

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**From:** Zack Welch [mailto:zack@peragoseattle.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 2:10 PM  
**To:** Info <info@desc.org>; Daniel Malone <dmalone@desc.org>; council@burienwa.gov  
**Cc:** Lauren Welch <lauren.welch99@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** DESC Facility

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello To Whom This May Concern:

With regards to the proposed DESC facility to be located at 801 SW 150th, this is not in the best interest for our city and its citizens.

I do not think it promotes property value growth which is likely the city's primary tax revenue after intergovernmental tax revenue (which should be illegal).

It will also negatively affect sales tax revenue as Burien's small businesses and retail businesses will suffer due to the fact that crime will increase. "Homeless" men, (60% of the "homeless" population) are 40 times more likely to abuse substances and have an average of 19 arrests before they are incarcerated for serious crimes. These are approximate stats from multiple geos (sources available upon request)

I do not think that a small community like ours (Burien) can afford to house the Puget Sound's homeless.

Thank you!

Zack

## 8. Summary of Outreach by Website

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The DESC Burien Team prepared an informational website at <https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien/>. The website included information about the development, pictures of the proposed site, a rendering of the DESC Burien design, contact information, and a link to a Microsoft Forms survey. The webpage is available in Section 9 of this report. The website is updated frequently with additional FAQ documents that reflect new conversations we have had with community members.

The Microsoft Forms link is available in both English and Spanish. The link is a way for individuals to communicate their comments, questions, and feedback to DESC. It also provides an optional field where commenters may add their name and contact information as well as an optional field where commenters may identify themselves as a nearby property owner, a nearby renter, a nearby business owner, or an interested Burien citizen. A screenshot of the forms are included in Section 10 of this report.

As of March 26, 2021, we received 36 comments from the English Microsoft Form link and zero from the Spanish link. Of these comments, we received 13 comments expressing support and enthusiasm for the project, 10 comments expressing lack of support, and 13 comments that did not express support or lack of support but asked questions about the project. Thirteen people identified as nearby property owners, three identified as nearby renters, five identified as nearby business owners, and 15 identified as interested residents of Burien.

Many of the questions revolved around substance use and concerns that our tenant population would increase crime or emergency response in the area. A few individuals asked about green features of the DESC Burien building. Several individuals who expressed support asked to be kept up to date on the project and volunteered to advocate for DESC Burien in any way they could in the community.

DESC added a “Frequently Asked Questions” to the website to provide answers to questions and concerns that we received during our outreach effort. This document is available in both English and Spanish. This document continues to be updated as DESC receives questions from the community and holds various outreach events. A copy of the current document is included as part of the webpage in Section 9. We have not included the most current Spanish FAQ in Section 9 because we have not yet received the translation. We will, however, post the translation for the 3/30/21 FAQ on the website as soon as we receive it back.

On March 22, 2021, B-Town Blog published a Letter to the Editor with 66 community members showing support for this project. A link to the letter is posted on DESC’s website and is available at <https://b-townblog.com/2021/03/22/letter-65-community-members-show-support-for-new-desc-burien-housing-project/>



## 9. Website

[Sign up to receive email updates from DESC](#)

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# Housing & Health to End Homelessness

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## Burien Supportive Housing



<https://goo.gl/maps/Ez88eMdgYqxuwXvVA>

801 SW 150th St., Burien, 98166

[Click here to view the location on Google Maps https://goo.gl/maps/Ez88eMdgYqxuwXvVA](https://goo.gl/maps/Ez88eMdgYqxuwXvVA)

DESC is working on an affordable housing development in Burien, located at 801 SW 150th Street to create much-needed stable, supportive housing for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. Our plans include construction of a new building, in the beginning of 2022. When complete, the new building will feature approximately 95 studio units of affordable housing with supportive services and indoor/outdoor community spaces for single adults who are disabled and formerly homeless. Twenty-five units will be used to house Veterans experiencing homelessness. DESC will continue to own and operate the building after completion.



In an effort to learn more about neighborhood interests and provide neighbors with more details about the project, DESC hosted a virtual informational meeting on February 23rd, 2021 via Zoom about this new housing development. Click [here https://www.desc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/DESC-Burien-Letter-Flyer\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.desc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/DESC-Burien-Letter-Flyer_FINAL.pdf) for a copy of the community notification letter about the 2/23rd virtual informational meeting.

[Frequently Asked Questions <https://www.desc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DESC-Burien-Supportive-Housing-FAQs-Updated-3.12.21.pdf>](https://www.desc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DESC-Burien-Supportive-Housing-FAQs-Updated-3.12.21.pdf)

[Preguntas frecuentes \(actualizado el 12 de Marzo de 2021\) <https://www.desc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/210312-DESC-Burien-Supportive-Housing-FAQs-Spanish.pdf>](https://www.desc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/210312-DESC-Burien-Supportive-Housing-FAQs-Spanish.pdf)

## Community members show support for new DESC Burien housing project

Sixty-six members of the Burien community wrote a letter to the B-Town Blog in support of the project. [You can read it here <https://b-townblog.com/2021/03/22/letter-65-community-members-show-support-for-new-desc-burien-housing-project/>](https://b-townblog.com/2021/03/22/letter-65-community-members-show-support-for-new-desc-burien-housing-project/).→

We welcome your feedback, comments, and questions about this project. Please submit them [here <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vB53CSz\\_xEqSaWypkWwSvy9NQAzbz2RJq8k7clT\\_EOJUMDdUUTNKSDNaS1A4S1VRRIdYV0g2STIWMS4u>](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vB53CSz_xEqSaWypkWwSvy9NQAzbz2RJq8k7clT_EOJUMDdUUTNKSDNaS1A4S1VRRIdYV0g2STIWMS4u).

Agradecemos sus comentarios, comentarios y preguntas sobre este proyecto. Por favor, envíelos [aquí <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vB53CSz\\_xEqSaWypkWwSvy9NQAzbz2RJq8k7clT\\_EOJURFBHMFJHWTg2UENBREpYVzVGREQxNDZTSS4u>](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vB53CSz_xEqSaWypkWwSvy9NQAzbz2RJq8k7clT_EOJURFBHMFJHWTg2UENBREpYVzVGREQxNDZTSS4u).

We will update this webpage as the project proceeds.

***Please note that any information collected during the community outreach process may be submitted to the City of Burien and made public pursuant to the Washington Public Records Act.***

[Click here for more information about DESC's Supportive Housing <https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/>](https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/)

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## MAIN OFFICE

515 Third Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Other Locations [<https://www.desc.org/contact/>](https://www.desc.org/contact/)

## PHONE

206-464-1570 [<tel:206-464-1570>](tel:206-464-1570)

800-833-6388 TDD/TDY

## EMAIL

[info@desc.org <mailto:info@desc.org>](mailto:info@desc.org)

[DONATE <HTTPS://WWW.DESC.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/DONATE/>](https://www.desc.org/get-involved/donate/)

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515 Third Avenue  
 Seattle, WA 98104  
 phone: 206.464.1570  
 fax: 206.624.4196  
**desc.org**

## DESC Burien Supportive Housing FAQs

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March 30, 2021

**Thank you to all our neighbors and Burien community members who attended DESC Burien's** Virtual Public Meeting on the evening of Tuesday, February 23, 2021! We also appreciate those who reached out via the comment form on our website and those who called or emailed to ask questions, give feedback, and express support. We received a lot of questions and were unable to get to every one of them. This document is intended to capture the scope of questions we received and provide responses to concerned members of the community.

On March 10, 2021, DESC presented to the Planning Commission of Burien which unanimously **voted to advance DESC's Affordable Housing Demonstration Program** application to the Burien City Council. The Burien City Council will hear DESC present about this project on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. This document has been updated to reflect questions asked by the members of the Planning Commission.

On March 23, 2021, DESC, in concert with Discover Burien and the Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce, invited small business owners to attend a virtual meeting where DESC leadership presented DESC and the DESC Burien site. This document has been updated to reflect questions asked by attendees of this meeting.

### DESC - The Organization

What is DESC?

For 42 years, DESC has provided a multitude of services that provide health and housing to vulnerable people experiencing homelessness including behavioral health services, crisis intervention, outreach, over 500 shelter beds and survival services, and over 1200 supportive housing units across multiple neighborhoods in Seattle. DESC's supportive housing has been the subject of numerous research evaluations and has won numerous awards.

DESC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization funded by a mixture of public contracts, health insurance (Medicaid), tenant rents and rent subsidies, and private donations.

### Site/Location

Why did DESC choose the City of Burien for this project?

DESC is focused on homelessness in King County and provides behavioral health crisis services countywide. We want to establish services where the needs are and have observed the growing level of homelessness outside Seattle for a number of years. In Burien we see a community with

Updated March 30, 2021

unmet needs among the population group DESC serves, and a community with a stated intent to address affordable housing needs. We seek sites that are appropriate to our program and building needs. This means looking for properties in places where people live and where zoning supports the sort of multi-unit properties we create. The site at 801 SW 150<sup>th</sup> St is suited to our tenants as it is near a transit hub and features easy access to groceries and other amenities. DESC entered into a purchase and sale agreement in the summer of 2020 and intends to close on the property in August of 2021.

**Furthermore, with the City of Burien’s Affordable Housing Demonstration Program (which DESC applied for in Fall of 2020), we know we are joining a community of shared values, one that supports equity and housing.**

### Construction and Design

What is the proposed design of the DESC Burien supportive housing project?

DESC Burien will feature 95 studio units for single adults with a service space dedicated to tenant supports on the first floor. Amenities include a commercial kitchen, a medical office, a street-facing front desk with 24/7 staffing, offices for case managers, and an alley-facing exterior courtyard that may only be accessed by tenants. We plan to provide three onsite parking spaces for DESC use. Our tenants do not typically own vehicles, thus we do not expect to need more parking for this purpose. This building will include solar panels and electronic utility monitoring systems which allow maintenance staff to intervene in real-time if a leak occurs in the building or water is running excessively. We also have a landscaping plan that will add trees and green space to the areas along SW 150<sup>th</sup> St and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave

We intend to fund the building through Low Income Housing Tax Credits, county, and state funding. DESC Burien will begin construction in early 2022 and welcome its first tenants in spring of 2023.

### Demographics/Population/Residents

How will DESC Burien recruit and select applicants?

DESC intends to work with local organizations to target and outreach individuals already experiencing homelessness in Burien. These individuals will apply for DESC Burien units through **the County’s Coordinated Entry for All program. DESC Burien will house** single adults experiencing chronic homelessness, which means people homeless for one year or longer and living with a disability. Tenants will have incomes less than 30% of the area median income. At least 25 units will be reserved for veterans experiencing chronic homelessness. Since supportive housing is a specialized resource with built-in robust supports, DESC selects applicants who need this type of housing to be successful.

King County has affirmed that new supportive housing programs should be established to meet the needs of people already in a given community.

### Property/Service Management/Operations

What is permanent supportive housing?

Permanent supportive housing is a model that brings support services to tenants help them live successfully in their apartments. Each tenant signs a lease - their housing is permanent, and they may stay as long as they wish, provided they abide by the terms of the lease. Tenants pay 30% of their income as rent. **DESC's operating costs** are supported by these tenant rents and other sources likely including a rent subsidy supplied by King County Housing Authority vouchers. DESC Burien tenants will have the typical rights and responsibilities of traditional housing with the added support of onsite case management, onsite property management, and 24/7 staffing.

Onsite case managers assist tenants to connect with behavioral health providers, attend medical appointments, keep units clean and in good condition, obtain metro passes, pay rent on time, and manage their medication. Other provided support includes some meals as well as onsite activities, therapeutic groups, and crisis management services.

What will staffing be like at DESC Burien?

DESC Burien will have an onsite manager, five housing case managers, and ten residential counselors who will staff the front desk and milieu spaces over three shifts. Staff presence is highest during daytime hours, but evening, overnight, and weekend times will have, at minimum, two staff members onsite.

All DESC staff receive training across a variety of topics including effective engagement skills with clients and crisis intervention. This training teaches staff how to identify a person in crisis as well as a range of de-escalation skills, to prevent situations from becoming more acute and avoid the unnecessary reliance on external sources such as police services. One of the most helpful elements of de-escalation is an existing trusting relationship with a tenant. Everything staff do is for the purpose of furthering trusting engagement with clients.

#### Quality of Living/Effects on the Neighborhood/Neighborhood Responsibility

Will neighbors see an increase in drug activity in the community?

Some DESC clients struggle with substance use issues. We work with people connect to supports or **treatment at their own pace. We don't tolerate drug dealing in our properties and we have a code** of conduct for our tenants that prohibits drug-related and other problematic behaviors in the surrounding community. The DESC Burien building will have sharps disposal bins in multiple common areas such as the client restrooms, laundry rooms, and trash rooms. Housing case managers will work closely with tenants to ensure they have the resources needed to dispose of any sharps safely and appropriately.

#### **Will DESC Burien's presence in the neighborhood increase emergency response calls?**

**DESC's tenants** live with complex conditions that sometimes result in personal crises, especially medical emergencies. We attempt to minimize these events by being attentive that what is going on with our tenants and bringing services to them. Given the disability profiles of our tenants, **it's** true that 911 calls are more likely in our building than an average apartment building. Examples of what might happen include a DESC tenant calling **911 to report an issue that either isn't real or isn't an emergency. Partnerships** with police and fire allow us to ensure we keep these calls down. Studies on DESC and other supportive housing programs have shown that crisis events and 911 calls decrease once people go into supportive housing compared to when those people were on the streets, so the overall burden on crisis response systems in Burien will go down.

**What is DESC Burien's plan for tenants** behaving inappropriately in the neighborhood, including interfering with or loitering around local businesses?

When tenants move in, they sign an addendum to the lease called the Good Neighbor policy. This policy prohibits problematic behaviors such as a loitering around local businesses. Should a business suspect that an individual exhibiting concerning behavior lives at the DESC Burien building, they may call the front desk at any time day or night for a response. **DESC's stance is to** check on the situation as quickly as possible, and to reinforce expectations if the person is a DESC tenant. In the event the person does not reside in the DESC Burien building, we would do our best to help resolve the matter.

**What is DESC's process for integrating neighborhood feedback into their plans?**

DESC welcomes feedback from neighbors and wants to understand any questions and concerns, including what additional needs the neighborhood has. Recommendations about building design features may be possible to consider, and ideas about the most productive communication **channels for DESC's staff once the building is operational are most welcome.** If there is a **neighborhood need that might be addressed in DESC's building**, we would like to hear it and see if we can help. An example that comes to mind is neighborhood meeting spaces for community **groups, which may be something DESC's building design could accommodate.**

Will property crimes increase as a result of your tenants or visitors of your tenants?

We have no experience showing **that DESC's tenants or their visitors engage in crimes** that affect the neighbors of our buildings, including businesses, residents, and children. As noted above, we have systems in place to address any inappropriate behaviors by DESC tenants in the neighborhood. Research has shown repeatedly that when people experiencing homelessness gain the stability of a home, incidents of arrests and incarceration decline significantly and steadily. For any tenants going through periods of struggle, DESC staff are in a position to much more closely monitor behaviors and intervene as needed than if the same person were living homeless in the area.

How will DESC help integrate tenants into the surrounding neighborhood?

**DESC's tenants will all be permanent residents of the community.** Many of them will eagerly avail themselves of the range of groups and activities in the neighborhood, while others will more likely keep to themselves. DESC is excited to help facilitate connection between tenants of our building and other neighbors by establishing low-key social events for people to meet one another, via neighborhood cleanup projects, and other similar activities.

Can we expect more people experiencing homelessness to be living in cars or motorhomes near the building?

The DESC building will not have services for people other than those who live in the building, so there would be no advantage to parking a vehicle near the building.

#### Questions Received From the Burien City Council

During the public meeting, DESC said they would prioritize Burien residents that need the assistance. Is this written somewhere? Is there a contract that states this?

King County officials have stated publicly that they intend for new supportive housing projects to serve the needs of the local area. We will work with our King County contacts to confirm whether this is documented somewhere in their policies.

Would the residents pay rent, or is it 100% covered by subsidies? If covered by subsidies, **would that not qualify for the project as “affordable housing” but public housing?**

Tenants will pay rent based on their individual income. DESC will utilize additional resources to cover the full array of operating costs not covered by the low rents paid by the tenants. A likely revenue source would be rent subsidies attached to the apartments. A number of affordable housing projects are subsidized in this way. The term **“public housing” refers to another kind of subsidized housing project that is operated by a public housing authority such as KCHA.**

**What is DESC’s process of connecting residents for long-term housing for its residents?**

Permanent supportive housing is considered long-term housing. Not everyone stays forever, but the typical tenant stays for many years until another type of environment is needed such as assisted living or skilled nursing. Some people move out to other housing along the way because they desire something else and are able to be successful there. In such cases, DESC staff assist tenants with making these other arrangements.

**What was the timing of DESC’s planning and decision-making regarding properties in Burien?** DESC initially became interested in Burien when learning in late 2019 about the Affordable Housing Demonstration Program legislation. We became aware that St. Vincent de Paul was potentially interested in redeveloping their property in Burien, so in early 2020 we began talking with them about how a partnership could work. Toward the middle of the year we realized that **we weren’t going to be able to successfully redevelop the St. Vincent site for the needs of both organizations.** At that time, we engaged a real estate broker and began looking for other properties in Burien so we could use the Affordable Housing Demonstration Program.

Are other properties in Burien being considered or were other properties under considered?

We selected the site on 150th because of several characteristics including great access to transit, which our tenants need. Although we wish this site had more of a residential context, we did note that some condo buildings were being constructed or had permits pending and we envisioned a more residential downtown urban setting in the future. Many other sites that we evaluated had a more residential context, such as near schools, homes and small businesses, but had very poor access to transit. In the end, we selected this property as the one with the best combination of characteristics for our needs.

#### Questions Received From the Planning Commission

Are the services offered mandatory?

DESC uses a voluntary model of services. Evidence shows that coercing participation in services is not as effective as devising services and engagement strategies that are attractive to tenants. This results in a very high service participation rates.

Does DESC have plans to provide a food bank?

DESC continues to use our resources to build on what we do best: providing health and housing to **King County’s most vulnerable residents experiencing homelessness.** While we do a lot of work helping our tenants acquire food for themselves, we do not have plans at this time to expand our



services to provide a food bank for the broader community. DESC would be happy to explore ways we could partner with organizations beginning this endeavor.

You have indicated your commitment to housing people experiencing homelessness in Burien. What local organizations have you reached out to that may help you achieve this?

DESC has reached out to various behavioral healthcare and social services organizations doing work in Burien including Navos, Sound Health, Catholic Community Services, the LEAD program, **REACH, and Mary's Place**. We have strong relationships with many of these organizations. We have been in communication with Chief Boe and expect that his team will be helpful in identifying individuals we may outreach for housing. As we get closer to opening in 2023, we will continue to make connections with local agencies that can help us fill our building with those who are unhoused in Burien.

What does DESC do to dispel myths about homelessness and educate communities about the work you do?

DESC sent invitations to its February Virtual Public Meeting to addresses within 1000 feet of the DESC Burien site. We invited many local organizations and stakeholders to attend as well. Approximately 140 people attended the meeting. We continue to provide updates through our website and respond to people who submit questions or concerns. The materials we have shared with neighbors are translated into Spanish and can be found on the website. We also have several meetings and tours scheduled with members of the business community in Burien.

How is this project different from an Enhanced Services Facility (ESF)?

DESC Burien Supportive Housing is very different. It is voluntary and it is rental housing with services that act as disability accommodations. Enhanced Service Facilities deploy a more institutional service model with personal care assistance and nursing services onsite. People who live at ESFs are often mandated to live there by the court system. DESC has no custodial control over individuals in its housing. All DESC Burien tenants will have the rights and responsibilities of a typical Washington State tenant.

Will DESC Burien Supportive Housing source labor from the local area for construction?

DESC would be pleased to source labor from the Burien area. Sometimes our public funding contracts have compliance requirements for subcontractors that can make the process more arduous, however, DESC intends to strategize with our general contractor between now and when bids go out to develop area contacts and find ways to make those reporting requirements more accessible to local businesses.

Will DESC track data on how successful it is in housing individuals from Burien?

Yes. DESC has a robust data system that tracks people we serve. We will ensure we track updated information about where people were experiencing homelessness in order to quantify our local positive impact as we open DESC Burien.

Will DESC prioritize people of color?

BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) are overrepresented in the population of people experiencing homelessness. As a result, we expect that DESC Burien will house high numbers of BIPOC individuals. While many of our prioritization requirements (such as our set-aside veteran units) come from public funding sources, DESC may consider folding other prioritizations into its recruitment.

If DESC has applicants with 30-50% AMI (area median income), do they get put on a waiting list?

Due to the scarcity of affordable housing and the extremely low income population we serve, it is not difficult to fill the units we rent. Furthermore, our funding sources constrain us to rent to individuals with 30% or lower AMI. The people DESC Burien is intended to serve - individuals experiencing long-term homelessness who also have disabilities - often make 0-15% of the median income.

Will DESC be building sidewalks?

Yes! DESC Burien will be significantly improving the site as well as adding sidewalks along both sides of the corner lot.

Is it hard to fill veteran units due to the 30% AMI restriction?

Unfortunately, there is no shortage of veterans under 30% experiencing long term homelessness. We do not have difficulty filling units.

**What's the average time** tenants stay with DESC?

For the vast majority of people, their DESC apartment is a permanent home until they pass away or need a higher level of care. The high cost of market rate housing and income levels of our tenant population make it unlikely they will move into an independent market rate housing situation.

Have you worked with King County Metro around the renovations for the H Line that will occur in front of DESC Burien along 150<sup>th</sup> Street?

The DESC Burien design team has reached out to King County Metro and obtained plans for their work along 150<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to work with their schedule as closely as possible so we can avoid a situation where DESC has to remove brand-new work done by King County and vice versa. We are excited that the H Line will be so convenient and walkable for our tenants!

#### Questions Received from Businesses During March 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

Has DESC done any outreach to the Latino businesses around the site?

DESC mailed flyers and letters to properties within 1000 feet of the proposed site, and followed up with efforts to reach out to our Spanish-speaking neighbors by making translated materials available on our website and supplying these materials to the Greater Church Council of Seattle which has works closely within Latinx communities in Burien.

What are the next steps in this process with the City Council?

The reason this project is going before the City Council is because it is seeking to become a part of the Affordable Housing Demonstration Program. This program will allow us to work with the City to attain several zoning exceptions which will assist us in constructing a building which accommodates our population and maintains a balanced development budget. DESC was recently unanimously recommended for the Program by the Planning Committee. On April 5th, DESC Burien will be presented the City Council for consideration of acceptance into the program. City Council approval is the final step in the Affordable Housing Demonstration Program application process.

**If the City Council doesn't approve the Affordable Housing Demonstration, would the project still go forward?**

Yes, DESC will work to make the site location and existing zoning requirements work for its building.

Is there any City of Burien funding going into the program?

No, and we do not expect to receive any.

With a name like the Downtown Emergency Service Center, should neighbors expect that more people experiencing homelessness will arrive in the area expecting emergency services?

**Currently, “DESC Burien” is a placeholder we are using to distinguish this project. Further along in the development process, DESC will choose a name that will go on the sign. Like many of our other buildings (Rainier House, Evans House, Hobson Place among them), we intend that “DESC” will not be a part of the name. We are open to any suggestions for naming conventions that neighbors might have! The origin of DESC’s full name comes from when DESC was created to operate an emergency shelter in downtown Seattle. The permanent housing proposed for Burien is not an emergency shelter.**

Where are the similar facilities in King County?

You may see other similar DESC facilities on our Supportive Housing webpage:

<https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/>

Are there compliance guidelines from funders that DESC Burien will follow?

DESC Burien will be funded by capital public sources such as the Washington State Department of Commerce Housing Trust Fund, the King County Housing Finance Program, and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. We will also be receiving King County operating support and support services funding as well as 95 King County Housing Authority vouchers for this project. In working with these public funders, DESC Burien will be required to commit to making the building affordable for 50 years, submitting tenant eligibility paperwork each year, and undergoing annual unit inspections, to name a few.

**Any additional funding in case if there’s an increase for police or emergency services** which would become a burden for Burien?

We do not know of availability of funds of this type. However, DESC hopes to reduce the need for emergency services by simply being in the neighborhood. Individuals who are housed are less likely to utilize emergency services and less likely to create disturbances that necessitate 911 calls.

If someone has a history of violence, would they be vetted in or out of the system?

DESC does not exclude individuals with criminal backgrounds from its housing programs. We find that people with long histories of homelessness may have criminal records that reflect the difficulties of life lived on the street. In many cases, past violent behavior stems from lack of connection to behavioral health resources. That said, our tenants are some of the most vulnerable individuals in the community which makes them much more likely to be a victim of violence than a perpetrator. The lease that tenants sign upon move-in clearly identifies violence as cause for lease termination.

What is your pet policy with the tenants?

DESC does not allow pets but allows service and emotional support animals.

Are couples or married couples allowed to cohabitate?

Our studios are single occupancy studio apartments only.

How many businesses on that property now?

Currently there are 12 leases, 10 of which will expire by the time DESC will begin construction. DESC has engaged relocation consultant Kerry Lynch who has years of experience providing relocation assistance to businesses. DESC Burien carries a budget for relocation assistance and intends to do all we can to assist all 12 businesses in finding comparable locations and making smooth transitions.

How has **DESC's** supportive housing program evolved over the years?

**There's more of it. This model** was very new in the 1990s when DESC opened its first couple **housing projects. "Housing readiness" was a prevailing idea at the time which required that** people experiencing homelessness meet certain expectations such as sobriety or employment in order to obtain housing. Over time, providing someone with housing and a safe and stable place to live regardless of their life circumstances became more accepted. Along the way, we engaged with external researchers to evaluate the approach and identify the elements that make it successful. Increasingly, other institutions and sectors have come to see housing as fundamental to having good health.

What is the eviction rate for DESC properties?

It is very low. In 2020, DESC asked 14 people to terminate their leases out of more than 1200 served. Of those 14, DESC rehoused or resheltered all but two. DESC supportive housing really provides permanent homes for most people and eviction is very rare.

Was transportation a factor in selecting the site location? How often DESC tenants use public transportation?

DESC residents do not typically own vehicles, so finding a walkable location with nearby public transportation was very important when DESC's Property Development Team evaluated site locations. DESC tenants use public transportation very frequently. That and walking is often the only way tenants have to get around.

Will this location have a Safe Injection Site?

No, DESC Burien will not run a Safe Injection Site. This will be a housing development only.

### **What is DESC's approach to substance use treatment?**

Drug use is not simply permitted in our programs. However, many DESC clients are living with substance use challenges and many struggle with this. We take an open and honest approach with our tenants about this topic. Much like substance use in the broader community, many addictions play out in private and we work to connect people to treatment. Some people have substance use issues that can impact the broader community, which leads us to treating those behaviors as lease enforcement issues.

Throughout all our work with people living with substance use issues, we use an approach called harm reduction. This is a practical approach that acknowledges risky behavior, like drug use, exists in our world. Instead of demanding risky behavior simply cease (often with little effect), harm reduction attempts to reduce the dangers associated with the risky behavior. This can take many forms, but most well-known are provision of clean needles and access to condoms.

A common societal belief exists that the only path to recovery from substance use is immediate and total abstinence and/or a tough love approach. While this approach works for some people, others have not been successful and have worsening outcomes over time. This means that other approaches are required if we hope to meet the treatment needs in our community.

DESC has partnered with the University of Washington on several studies and we have not seen any support for the idea that our harm reduction approach leads to increase substance use or a worsening of substance use outcomes. In study after study we have found the opposite: harm reduction is associated with reduced drug use, reduced harm and - at the community level - reduced need for publicly funded services.

### **What is a typical DESC building's vacancy rate?**

Turnover in DESC buildings is extremely low. It varies between 2-5% annually. Most people who move in to DESC housing make it their life-long home.

Will DESC tenants seek employment in the community?

Very few residents seek employment. Most tenants have disabilities that preclude them from getting and keeping a job. However, some are able to obtain work. Many of these individuals are **part of DESC's Supported Employment Program and are assisted by** a case manager who assists them in providing coaching and job skills.

How has housing changed for your tenants during the pandemic?

Many of our tenants are at high risk for infection. We have worked hard to encourage our tenants to socially distance and wear masks while also maintaining safe and conscientious engagement. Staff have changed a number of procedures to limit tenant interaction including making door-to-door medication and meal deliveries, removing lounge furniture downstairs to limit group gatherings, and asking tenants not to have visitors.

This has been a difficult time for our clients and many are feeling isolated. We have had generous organizations and individuals donate art projects, activity kits, books, and games, but tenants have missed group activities and socialization considerably.

Will DESC Burien have its own vehicles for tenant transportation?

DESC Burien will have at least two vehicles onsite for client transportation. Staff frequently assist tenants in taking them shopping or to medical appointments and when it is not feasible to do so using public transportation, staff have the option to use the onsite vehicles.

# Preguntas frecuentes sobre las viviendas de apoyo de DESC Burien

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12 de marzo de 2021

Gracias a todos nuestros vecinos y miembros de la comunidad de Burien que asistieron a la reunión pública virtual de DESC Burien en la noche del martes 23 de febrero de 2021. También agradecemos a los que se comunicaron a través del formulario de comentarios de nuestra página web y a los que llamaron o enviaron un correo electrónico para hacer preguntas, dar su opinión y expresar su apoyo. Hemos recibido muchas preguntas y no hemos podido responder a todas. Este documento pretende reflejar el alcance de las preguntas que recibimos y ofrecer respuestas a los miembros preocupados de la comunidad.

## **DESC – La organización**

### **¿Qué es DESC?**

Durante 42 años, DESC ha prestado múltiples servicios que proporcionan salud y vivienda a las personas vulnerables que carecen de un hogar, como servicios de salud conductual, intervención en caso de crisis, actividades de divulgación, más de 500 camas de refugio y servicios de supervivencia, y más de 1200 viviendas de apoyo en varios vecindarios de Seattle. Las viviendas de apoyo de DESC han sido objeto de numerosas evaluaciones de investigación y han ganado numerosos premios.

DESC es una organización sin ánimo de lucro 501c3 que se financia con una mezcla de contratos públicos, seguros médicos (Medicaid), rentas de los inquilinos y subsidios de arrendamiento y donaciones privadas.

## **Sitio/lugar**

### **¿Por qué eligió DESC a la ciudad de Burien para este proyecto?**

DESC se centra en el problema de los sin techo en el condado de King y ofrece servicios para crisis de salud mental en todo el condado. Queremos establecer servicios allí donde hay necesidad y llevamos varios años observando el aumento del número de personas sin hogar fuera de Seattle. En Burien vemos una comunidad con necesidades insatisfechas entre el grupo de población al que DESC presta sus servicios, y una comunidad con la intención declarada de abordar las necesidades de vivienda asequible. Buscamos lugares que sean apropiados para nuestro programa y nuestras necesidades de construcción. Esto significa buscar propiedades en lugares donde viva la gente y donde la zonificación apoye el tipo de propiedades de varias unidades que creamos. El solar del 801 de la calle 150 SW es adecuado para nuestros inquilinos, ya que está cerca de un núcleo de tránsito y cuenta con fácil acceso a tiendas de alimentación y otros servicios. DESC firmó un acuerdo de compra y venta en el verano de 2020 y tiene previsto cerrar la compra de la propiedad en agosto de 2021.

Además, con el Programa de demostración de vivienda asequible de la ciudad de Burien (que solicitó DESC en otoño de 2020), sabemos que nos unimos a una comunidad de valores compartidos, que apoya la equidad y la vivienda.

## **Construcción y diseño**

Actualizado el 12 de marzo de 2021

### **¿Cuál es el diseño propuesto para el proyecto de viviendas de apoyo de DESC Burien?**

DESC Burien contará con 95 unidades de estudio para adultos solteros con un espacio de servicio dedicado a la asistencia a los inquilinos en la primera planta. Los servicios incluyen una cocina comercial, un consultorio médico, una recepción que da a la calle con personal las 24 horas del día, oficinas para los encargados de manejo de casos y un patio exterior que da al callejón y al que sólo pueden acceder los inquilinos. Tenemos previsto proporcionar tres plazas de estacionamiento en las instalaciones para uso de DESC. Nuestros inquilinos no suelen tener vehículos, por lo que no prevemos que se necesiten más plazas de estacionamiento para este fin. Este edificio incluirá paneles solares y sistemas electrónicos de control de los servicios públicos que permitirán al personal de mantenimiento intervenir en tiempo real si se produce una fuga en el edificio o corre demasiada agua. También tenemos un plan de paisajismo que añadirá árboles y espacios verdes a las zonas situadas a lo largo de la SW 150th St y la 8th Ave.

Tenemos la intención de financiar el edificio a través de créditos fiscales para viviendas de bajos ingresos, fondos del condado y del estado. DESC Burien comenzará la construcción a principios de 2022 y dará la bienvenida a sus primeros inquilinos en la primavera de 2023.

### **Demografía/Población/Residentes**

#### **¿Cómo contratará y seleccionará DESC Burien a los solicitantes?**

DESC tiene la intención de trabajar con las organizaciones locales para dirigir y llegar a las personas que ya carecen de hogar en Burien. Estas personas solicitarán las unidades de DESC Burien a través del programa Coordinated Entry for All del condado. DESC Burien alojará a adultos solteros que carecen de hogar de forma crónica, es decir, personas sin hogar desde hace un año o más y que viven con una discapacidad inferior al 30% de los ingresos medios de la zona. Se reservarán al menos 25 unidades para veteranos que carecen de hogar de forma crónica. Dado que las viviendas de apoyo son un recurso especializado con sólidos apoyos incorporados, DESC selecciona a los solicitantes que necesitan este tipo de vivienda para tener éxito.

El condado de King ha afirmado que deben establecerse nuevos programas de viviendas de apoyo para satisfacer las necesidades de las personas que ya se encuentran en una determinada comunidad.

### **Gestión de la propiedad/servicios/operaciones**

#### **¿Qué es una vivienda de apoyo permanente?**

La vivienda de apoyo permanente es un modelo que aporta servicios de apoyo a los inquilinos para ayudarles a vivir con éxito en sus apartamentos. Cada inquilino firma un contrato de arrendamiento: su vivienda es permanente y puede quedarse todo el tiempo que desee, siempre que cumpla las condiciones del contrato. Los inquilinos pagan el 30% de sus ingresos en concepto de renta. Los gastos de funcionamiento de DESC se sufragan con estas rentas de los inquilinos y con otras fuentes que probablemente incluyan un subsidio de renta suministrado por los vales de la Autoridad de vivienda del condado de King. Los inquilinos de DESC Burien tendrán los derechos y responsabilidades habituales de las viviendas tradicionales con el apoyo añadido de la gestión de casos "in situ", la gestión de la propiedad en el lugar y la dotación de personal 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana.

Los encargados de manejo de casos "in situ" ayudan a los inquilinos a ponerse en contacto con los proveedores de salud mental, a acudir a las citas médicas, a mantener las unidades limpias y en buen estado,

a obtener pases de metro, a pagar la renta a tiempo y a gestionar su medicación. Otros apoyos proporcionados incluyen algunas comidas, así como actividades en el lugar, grupos terapéuticos y servicios de gestión de crisis.

### **¿Cómo será la dotación de personal en DESC Burien?**

DESC Burien tendrá un gerente en el lugar, cinco administradores de casos de vivienda y diez consejeros residenciales que atenderán la recepción y los espacios del medio en tres turnos. La presencia del personal es mayor durante las horas diurnas, pero las horas nocturnas y los fines de semana tendrán, como mínimo, dos miembros del personal en el lugar.

Todo el personal de DESC recibe formación sobre una variedad de temas que incluyen habilidades de compromiso efectivo con los clientes y la Intervención en Crisis. Esta formación enseña al personal a identificar a una persona en crisis, así como una serie de habilidades de desescalada, para evitar que las situaciones se agraven y evitar la dependencia innecesaria de fuentes externas como los servicios policiales. Uno de los elementos más útiles de la desescalada es una relación de confianza existente con el inquilino. Todo lo que hace el personal tiene como objetivo fomentar el compromiso de confianza con los clientes.

### **Calidad de vida/efectos en el vecindario/responsabilidad vecinal**

#### **¿Los vecinos verán un aumento de la actividad relacionada con las drogas en la comunidad?**

Algunos clientes de DESC se enfrentan a problemas de consumo de sustancias. Trabajamos con las personas para que accedan a los apoyos o al tratamiento a su propio ritmo. No toleramos el tráfico de drogas en nuestras propiedades y tenemos un código de conducta para nuestros inquilinos que prohíbe los comportamientos relacionados con las drogas y otras conductas problemáticas en la comunidad circundante. El edificio de DESC Burien dispondrá de contenedores para la eliminación de objetos punzantes en varias zonas comunes, como los baños de los clientes, las salas de lavandería y los cuartos de basura. Los encargados de manejo de casos de vivienda trabajarán estrechamente con los inquilinos para asegurarse de que disponen de los recursos necesarios para desechar cualquier objeto punzante de forma segura y adecuada.

#### **¿La presencia de DESC Burien en el vecindario aumentará las llamadas de respuesta a emergencias?**

Los inquilinos de DESC viven con condiciones complejas que a veces dan lugar a crisis personales, especialmente a emergencias médicas. Intentamos minimizar estos sucesos estando atentos a lo que les ocurre a nuestros inquilinos y acercándoles los servicios. Dado el perfil de discapacidad de nuestros inquilinos, es cierto que las llamadas al 911 son más probables en nuestro edificio que en un edificio de departamentos promedio. Algunos ejemplos de lo que puede ocurrir son que un inquilino DESC llame al 911 para informar de un problema que no es real o que no es una emergencia. Las asociaciones con la policía y los bomberos nos permiten asegurar que mantenemos un nivel bajo de este tipo de llamadas. Los estudios sobre DESC y otros programas de viviendas de apoyo han demostrado que los sucesos de crisis y las llamadas al 911 disminuyen una vez que las personas entran en una vivienda de apoyo en comparación con cuando esas personas estaban en la calle, por lo que la carga general sobre los sistemas de respuesta a las crisis en Burien disminuirá.

#### **¿Cuál es el plan de DESC Burien para los inquilinos que se comportan de forma inapropiada en el vecindario, lo que incluye interferir o merodear alrededor de los negocios locales?**



Cuando los inquilinos se mudan, firman un anexo al contrato de arrendamiento llamado política de buen vecino. Esta política prohíbe los comportamientos conflictivos, como merodear por los negocios locales. Si un negocio sospecha que un individuo que muestra un comportamiento preocupante vive en el edificio de DESC Burien, puede llamar a la recepción a cualquier hora del día o de la noche para obtener una respuesta. La postura de DESC es comprobar la situación lo antes posible y reforzar las expectativas si la persona es un inquilino de DESC. En el caso de que la persona no resida en el edificio de DESC Burien, haremos todo lo posible para ayudar a resolver el problema.

### **¿Cuál es el proceso de DESC para integrar los comentarios del vecindario en sus planes?**

DESC agradece los comentarios de los vecinos y quiere entender cualquier pregunta y duda, incluso las necesidades adicionales que tenga el vecindario. Es posible que se consideren recomendaciones sobre las características del diseño del edificio, y son muy bienvenidas las ideas sobre los canales de comunicación más productivos para el personal de DESC una vez que el edificio esté operativo. Si existe una necesidad del vecindario que pueda abordarse en el edificio de DESC, nos gustaría escucharla y ver si podemos ayudar. Un ejemplo que se me ocurre es el de los espacios de reunión del vecindario para grupos comunitarios, que puede ser algo que podría contemplar el diseño del edificio de DESC.

### **¿Aumentarán los delitos contra la propiedad como consecuencia de sus inquilinos o los visitantes de estos?**

No tenemos ninguna experiencia que demuestre que los inquilinos de DESC o sus visitantes cometan delitos que afecten a los vecinos de nuestros edificios, incluidos los negocios, los residentes y los niños. Como se ha señalado anteriormente, disponemos de sistemas para hacer frente a cualquier comportamiento inadecuado de los inquilinos de DESC en el vecindario. Las investigaciones han demostrado repetidamente que cuando las personas que carecen de hogar consiguen la estabilidad de una casa, los incidentes relacionados con arrestos y encarcelamientos disminuyen de forma significativa y constante. En el caso de los inquilinos que pasan por periodos de dificultad, el personal de DESC está en condiciones de vigilar mucho más atentamente los comportamientos e intervenir en caso necesario que si la misma persona viviera sin hogar en la zona.

### **¿Cómo ayudará DESC a integrar a los inquilinos en el vecindario?**

Todos los inquilinos de DESC serán residentes permanentes de la comunidad. Muchos de ellos aprovecharán con entusiasmo la variedad de grupos y actividades del vecindario, mientras que otros serán más bien reservados. DESC se complace en ayudar a facilitar la conexión entre los inquilinos de nuestro edificio y otros vecinos, estableciendo actividades sociales de bajo perfil para que la gente se conozca, a través de proyectos de limpieza del vecindario y otras actividades similares.

### **¿Podemos esperar que más personas sin hogar vivan en autos o autocaravanas cerca del edificio?**

El edificio de DESC no tendrá servicios para otras personas que no sean las que viven en el edificio, por lo que no habría ninguna ventaja en estacionar un vehículo cerca del edificio.

## **Preguntas recibidas de la municipalidad de Burien**

### **Durante la reunión pública, DESC dijo que daría prioridad a los residentes de Burien que necesitan la ayuda. ¿Esto está escrito en alguna parte? ¿Existe un contrato que establezca esto?**

Los funcionarios del condado de King han declarado públicamente que tienen la intención de que los nuevos proyectos de viviendas de apoyo atiendan a las necesidades de la zona. Trabajaremos con nuestros contactos del condado de King para confirmar si esto está documentado en alguna parte de sus políticas.

**¿Los residentes pagarían la renta, o está cubierta al 100% por los subsidios? Si está cubierta por subsidios, ¿el proyecto no constituiría una "vivienda asequible" sino una vivienda pública?**

Los inquilinos pagarán una renta basada en sus ingresos personales. DESC utilizará recursos adicionales para cubrir toda la serie de gastos de funcionamiento que no se cubren con las bajas rentas que pagan los inquilinos. Una probable fuente de ingresos serían las subvenciones a la renta vinculadas a los apartamentos. Varios proyectos de vivienda asequible están subvencionados de este modo. El término "vivienda pública" se refiere a otro tipo de proyecto de vivienda subvencionada que gestiona una autoridad de vivienda pública como KCHA.

**¿Cuál es el proceso de DESC para poner en contacto a los residentes con una vivienda de larga duración para sus residentes?**

Las viviendas de apoyo permanente se consideran viviendas de larga duración. No todo el mundo se queda para siempre, pero el inquilino habitual se queda durante muchos años hasta que necesita otro tipo de entorno, como una vivienda asistida o una enfermería especializada. Algunas personas se trasladan a otra vivienda a lo largo del tiempo porque desean otra cosa y pueden tener éxito en ella. En estos casos, el personal de DESC ayuda a los inquilinos a organizar estos otros preparativos.

**¿Cuál fue el calendario de planificación y toma de decisiones de DESC respecto a las propiedades en Burien?**

DESC se interesó inicialmente en Burien cuando conoció a finales de 2019 la legislación del Programa de demostración de viviendas asequibles. Nos dimos cuenta de que San Vicente de Paúl estaba potencialmente interesado en reurbanizar su propiedad en Burien, así que a principios de 2020 empezamos a hablar con ellos sobre cómo podría desarrollarse una asociación. Hacia mediados de año nos dimos cuenta de que no íbamos a poder volver a urbanizar con éxito el solar de San Vicente para las necesidades de ambas organizaciones. En ese momento, contratamos a un agente inmobiliario y empezamos a buscar otras propiedades en Burien para poder utilizar el Programa de demostración de viviendas asequibles.

**¿Se están estudiando otras propiedades en Burien o se estaban estudiando otras propiedades?**

Seleccionamos el solar de la 150 por varias características, entre ellas el gran acceso al tránsito, que nuestros inquilinos necesitan. Aunque nos gustaría que este solar tuviera un entorno más residencial, observamos que se estaban construyendo algunos edificios de condominios o tenían permisos pendientes y nos imaginamos un entorno urbano del centro más residencial en el futuro. Muchos otros emplazamientos que evaluamos tenían un entorno más residencial, con proximidad a escuelas, viviendas y pequeños comercios, pero tenían un acceso muy pobre al tránsito. Al final, seleccionamos esta propiedad por ser la que reunía la mejor combinación de características para nuestras necesidades.

**Preguntas recibidas de la Comisión de Planificación**

**¿Son obligatorios los servicios ofertados?**

DESC emplea un modelo de servicios voluntarios. La evidencia demuestra que coaccionar la participación en los servicios resulta menos eficaz que idear servicios y estrategias de compromiso que resulten atractivos para los inquilinos. El resultado es una tasa de participación en los servicios muy elevada.

**¿Tiene DESC planes para ofrecer un banco de alimentos?**

DESC continúa utilizando nuestros recursos para construir lo que mejor sabemos hacer: proporcionando salud y vivienda a los residentes más vulnerables del Condado de King que experimentan la falta de hogar.

Pese a que trabajamos mucho para ayudar a nuestros inquilinos a adquirir alimentos para ellos mismos, no contamos con planes en este momento para ampliar nuestros servicios y ofrecer un banco de alimentos para la comunidad en general. DESC estaría encantado de explorar las formas en que podríamos asociarnos con las organizaciones que están comenzando este esfuerzo.

**Ha indicado su compromiso de dar alojamiento a las personas sin hogar en Burien. ¿A qué organizaciones locales se ha dirigido para que le ayuden a alcanzar este objetivo?**

DESC se ha puesto en contacto con varias organizaciones de servicios sociales y de salud conductual que trabajan en Burien, como Navos, Sound Health, Catholic Community Services, el programa LEAD, REACH y Mary's Place. Mantenemos sólidas relaciones con muchas de estas organizaciones. Hemos estado en comunicación con el Jefe Boe y esperamos que su equipo nos ayude a identificar a las personas a las que podemos dirigirnos para conseguir una vivienda. A medida que nos acercamos a la apertura en 2023, continuaremos haciendo conexiones con las agencias locales que nos puedan ayudar a llenar nuestro edificio con aquellos que no tienen vivienda en Burien.

**¿Qué hace DESC para disipar los mitos sobre las personas sin hogar y educar a las comunidades sobre el trabajo que realizan?**

DESC envió invitaciones a la Reunión Pública Virtual de febrero a las direcciones situadas a menos de 1000 pies de la sede de DESC en Burien. Además, invitamos a muchas organizaciones locales y partes interesadas a asistir. Cerca de 140 personas asistieron a la reunión. Continuamos proporcionando actualizaciones a través de nuestro sitio web y dando respuesta a las personas que envían preguntas o inquietudes. Todo el material que hemos compartido con los vecinos está traducido al español y se puede encontrar en el sitio web. También tenemos programadas varias reuniones y visitas con miembros de la comunidad empresarial de Burien.

**¿En qué se diferencia este proyecto de una Instalación de Servicios Mejorados (ESF)?**

DESC Burien Supportive Housing es muy diferente. Son de carácter voluntario y se trata de viviendas de alquiler con servicios que actúan como alojamientos para discapacitados. Las instalaciones de servicios mejorados despliegan un modelo de servicio más institucional con asistencia de atención personal y servicios de enfermería en las instalaciones. Las personas que viven en los ESF suelen ser obligadas a vivir allí por el sistema judicial. Por su parte, DESC no tiene ningún control de la custodia de las personas en sus viviendas. Todos los inquilinos de DESC Burien tendrán los derechos y responsabilidades de un inquilino común del Estado de Washington.

**¿Podrá DESC Burien Supportive Housing contratar mano de obra en el área local para la construcción?**

DESC estaría encantado de contratar mano de obra del área de Burien. En ocasiones, nuestros contratos de financiación pública exigen el cumplimiento de requisitos para los subcontratistas que pueden hacer que el proceso sea más arduo, sin embargo, DESC tiene la intención de elaborar una estrategia con nuestro contratista general desde ahora hasta el momento en que se realicen las licitaciones para desarrollar contactos en la zona y encontrar las maneras de hacer que esos requisitos de información sean más accesibles para las empresas locales.

**¿Seguirá DESC los datos sobre el éxito en el alojamiento de personas de Burien?**

Sí. DESC cuenta con un sistema de datos robusto que hace un seguimiento de las personas a las que servimos. Nos aseguraremos de rastrear información actualizada sobre los lugares donde las personas

estaban experimentando la falta de vivienda con el fin de cuantificar nuestro impacto positivo local al abrir DESC Burien.

#### **¿Dará DESC prioridad a las personas de color?**

Los BIPOC (negros, indígenas y personas de color) están sobrerrepresentados en la población de personas sin hogar. Por lo tanto, esperamos que DESC Burien albergue a un gran número de personas BIPOC. A pesar de que muchos de nuestros requisitos de priorización (como las unidades reservadas para veteranos) provienen de fuentes de financiación pública, DESC puede considerar la inclusión de otras prioridades en su contratación.

#### **Si DESC tiene aplicantes con un 30 a 50 % de AMI (ingreso medio del área), ¿se les pone en una lista de espera?**

Debido a la escasez de viviendas asequibles y a la población de ingresos extremadamente bajos a la que servimos, no es difícil llenar las unidades que alquilamos. Además, nuestras fuentes de financiación nos limitan a alquilar a personas con un 30 % o menos de AMI. Las personas a las que DESC Burien está destinado a servir, es decir, las personas que se encuentran en situación sin hogar a largo plazo y que además tienen discapacidades, suelen tener un ingreso entre el 0 % y el 15 % de la renta media.

#### **¿Construirá DESC aceras?**

Sí. DESC Burien mejorará significativamente el sitio, así como la adición de aceras a lo largo de ambos lados del lote de la esquina.

#### **¿Es difícil llenar las unidades para veteranos debido a la restricción del 30 % del AMI?**

Desafortunadamente, no hay escasez de veteranos por debajo del 30 % que estén experimentando la falta de vivienda a largo plazo. No tenemos dificultades para llenar las unidades.

#### **¿Cuál es el tiempo promedio que los inquilinos permanecen en DESC?**

Para la gran mayoría de las personas, su apartamento DESC es un hogar permanente hasta que fallezcan o necesiten un mayor nivel de atención. El alto costo de las viviendas a precio de mercado y los niveles de ingresos de nuestra población de inquilinos hacen que sea poco probable que se trasladen a una situación de vivienda independiente a precio de mercado. ¿Ha trabajado con King County Metro en relación con las renovaciones de la línea H que se producirán frente a DESC Burien a lo largo de la calle 150?

El equipo de diseño de DESC Burien contactó con King County Metro y obtuvo los planos de sus obras a lo largo de la 150th. Nuestro objetivo es trabajar con su calendario lo más cerca posible con el fin de evitar una situación en la que DESC tenga que eliminar el trabajo nuevo realizado por King County y viceversa. ¡Estamos muy contentos de que la Línea H sea tan conveniente y accesible a pie para nuestros inquilinos!

## 10. Comment Form

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### DESC Burien Supportive Housing Site at 801 SW 150th St, Burien, WA 98166

DESC will be building a 95-unit permanent supportive housing development in the City of Burien. Please note that feedback you leave below is part of DESC's outreach efforts for City Land Use requirements and may be made public.

1. We would like to get your feedback, comments, and questions about this project. Please share them below. \*

Enter your answer

2. Optional: Please provide us your name and the best ways and times to contact you.

Enter your answer

3. Optional: How would you identify your relationship to this project?

- Nearby property owner
- Nearby renter
- Nearby business owner
- Interested resident of Burien

# DESC Burien Supportive Housing Site en 801 SW 150th St, Burien, WA 98166

DESC construirá una vivienda de apoyo permanente de 95 unidades en la ciudad de Burien. Por favor, tenga en cuenta que los comentarios que deje a continuación son parte de los esfuerzos de divulgación de DESC para los requisitos de uso de la tierra de la ciudad y pueden hacerse públicos.

1. Quisiéramos recibir sus opiniones, comentarios y preguntas sobre este proyecto. Por favor, compártalos a continuación \*

Enter your answer

2. Opcional: Por favor, indíquenos su nombre y las mejores formas y horarios para contactar con usted.

Enter your answer

3. Opcional: ¿Cómo identificaría su relación con este proyecto?

- Propietario cercano
- Inquilino cercano
- Propietario de un negocio cercano
- Residente de Burien interesado

# 11. Comments Received

ID	Date & Time	We would like to get your feedback, comments, and questions about this project. Please share them below.	Optional: Please provide us your name and the best ways and times to contact you.	Optional: How would you identify your relationship to this project?	Response from DESC	DESC Contact
1	2/9/21 7:51:28	This is AMAZING! Burien residents who complain about the homeless population in our city should be rejoicing that we have a way to get them off the streets.		Interested resident of Burien	No response; no contact info	N/A
2	2/9/21 9:15:41	Thank you for working to develop affordable/supportive housing in Burien. The region needs more development like yours. I live two blocks over on 6th Avenue SW and support this project. YIMBY - Yes in my back yard.	Dennis Hartwick, djhsix@gmail.com	Nearby renter	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
3	2/9/21 10:24:39	I will oppose this at every opportunity.	Darla Green	Nearby business owner	No response; no contact info	N/A
4	2/9/21 11:38:35	We will not let you into Burien.		Nearby property owner	No response; no contact info	N/A
5	2/9/21 13:35:01	First, this is great & very needed. Second, I really hope that residents will be allowed to have 1-2 pets.	Emily, emilyneely@gmail.com	Interested resident of Burien	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
6	2/9/21 18:59:21	I own a home in north hill of desmoines and Burien is my neighborhood. I also own a condo in Belltown so Seattle is my neighborhood. Some of the worst most drug infected parts of Seattle are IN and AROUND DESC facilities. I have been learning about homelessness as I am in the parks picking up litter from encampments and talking with people regularly with a group formed in September called we heart Seattle. Originally just formed to pick up litter but then found out people are providing food to encampments but no services. No! Caseworkers are not even asking people if they want help in the parks. One of the reasons people are in tents is because of the conditions of DESC -crime and drug use within. Until Seattle figures out how to manage their business I do not support this. Contrary to this, by doing the work and simply asking who would like help, we heart Seattle group (weheartseattle.com) has helped 19 people in one month get into recovery programs and housing and connect with family. This group are more successful than the crazy ineffectiveness of the city....profit driven organizations and bureaucracies. Can you tell I'm mad about it? I am dumbfounded at the amount of money wasted. Desc talks a good game and has some success but it's way too little and needs an entire overhaul at this point.	Karin Krippaehne 2067143678	Nearby property owner	Response made by telephone	Noah Fay
7	2/9/21 21:52:48	I worked at THS Summit/Seneca branch so have experience with DESC services. I always found assistance for clients needing services our agency was able to provide. I am delighted that this program is planned in Burien. We have a very visible homeless population with few services. DESC is a special agency and will provide badly needed services while being a good neighbor. When our vulnerable community members have these services the troublesome issues will decrease.	Sharon Dorsey 206 637 7047 Smdorsey38@gmail.com 15903 16th Ave SW Burien 98166 I'm retired so am usually available. I have no preference phone, email or snail mail	Interested resident of Burien	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
8	2/10/21 14:35:28	Just wanted to say that I am SO EXCITED to hear about this. This is sorely needed in the community and the region, and I can't imagine better neighbors than DESC.  If there is anything I can do to support the project, please don't hesitate to reach out. I will speak, I'll tweet, I'll talk to neighbors, I'll testify - you name it.  I do technically live a couple blocks over the city line, in Des Moines. But I grew up in Burien, I graduated from Highline HS, my first job was at the Taco Time a block and a half from the proposed site... So even though I'm not actually a resident, I'm hoping I still might be able to contribute as a community voice in support of the development.	Ben Miksch benjamin.miksch@gmail.com Cell: 206.240.8105	Interested resident of Burien	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
9	2/10/21 20:04:06	This will kick Burien down a couple of more notches, the way it has been heading for several years, already. All you need to do to see what DESC will bring to Burien is, go check out the area on 3rd Ave, by the courthouse in Seattle, not good. Another brilliant idea by our politicians of this city. Way too large of a complex, and DESC won't be able to baby sit the tenants they bring to Burien. This is NOT a good idea.	Denise Holthe Don't contact me.	Nearby renter	No response; no contact info	N/A

10	2/11/21 23:29:51	What you're trying to do is full of good intentions I congratulate you but the correct answer is; drug treatment, limited interim housing, then job placement. Free rent is the reason they don't have a home. In case you're wondering I'm not a hater or a Trump fan I just know.	Don't contact me at all.	Nearby property owner	No response; no contact info	N/A
11	2/16/21 9:36:47	Are you taking the public transit parking lot or the post office on either side of the building to be torn down?	brendan.freeman@btfree.me.com	Nearby property owner	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
12	2/16/21 9:45:04	Why wasn't informed of this meeting? I received the flyer from my barber. I live in the block next door to the proposed development in Burien Town Square Condominiums. It seems you should be blanketing the immediate area with this information.  Secondly, will we see lines of people waiting for services or being fed from this new building?	brendan.freeman@btfree.me.com	Nearby property owner	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
13	2/19/21 11:07:50	My name is Cesar Linares and I am invested community member that also works in Burien. I am wondering if there will be spanish interpretation for this session? There will be community members joining that speak both spanish and english and some that only speak spanish.  Thank you!	Cesar Linares cesarm104@gmail.com 206-832-7746	Interested resident of Burien	Response made by email	Daniel Malone
14	2/21/21 13:43:46	I just want to say this is so awesome! I am glad that this is happening in Burien!!	Jennifer Fichamba Fichambajennifer@gmail.com	Interested resident of Burien	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
15	2/21/21 15:37:05	I am very excited about this project. If there are citizen actions that can help support it I would love to participate.	Sarah Moore, 206-214-7522	Interested resident of Burien	Sarah attended the community meeting; no further contact made.	N/A
16	2/21/21 19:58:00	I worked 2yrs (Jan.2016-Nov.2017) --. next to a DESC Seattle complex @ 1618 S. Lane St. If the one proposed in Burien is run even close to how the one on S. Lane St. was, it will be nothing but a ++ for the entire city of Burien!	Al Alpert 302-397-1527 & leave msg.	Interested resident of Burien	Response made by telephone	Julie Nordgren
17	2/22/21 9:13:05	I think this sounds like a wonderful idea. I especially like the first floor of services available. As a community we would engage w/ the people who would live there, with cultural offerings.  On another note, I am hoping that you are planning for trees, green spaces, and would enhance Burien as a Tree City. It is aesthetic, nurturing, and provides shade, habitat for birds, and helps re: climate change. Do you have plans for trees/shrubs etc. (but especially trees)	Sybil Davis sybilhdavis@gmail.com	Interested resident of Burien	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
18	2/22/21 13:35:49	Some of the question I have received are the following:  On the commentary Fight for the Soul of Seattle, the DESC Facility on Morrison is a known Hell Hole. What do you propose to keep the same conditions from taking place in your new PROPOSED facility in Burien.  What about the interests of land owners and business's surrounding your property who are already dealing with the loses from COVID.  Are you going to offer security for the safety of my business. Do insurance premiums rise as a result of your facilities coming into a neighborhood?  Who is the land developer overseeing this project?  Are you using Opportunity Zone as a benefit to build this facility in this area. If so, these funds were to be used to improve already economically depressed areas. Not bring more poverty in....		Nearby business owner	No response; no contact info	N/A
19	2/22/21 13:41:37	Are your residents allowed continued use and monitored on their continued use of drugs and/or alcohol?		Nearby property owner	No response; no contact info	N/A



20	2/22/21 14:14:56	<p>I think this would be fantastic! I'm trying really hard to make the zoom meeting but my work schedule is tricky right now. From experience in the Burien community that dealt with ESF housing, there were people that live in Burien who are police officers that claim that this type of building brings crime and more 911 calls. The meeting was bonkers. They were upset that the building was in a residential area. Your proposal has this building in the downtown area, which they all thought was the area it should have been placed. Now, the chatter is your building would hurt businesses. We know this is not true. I'm hoping you can highlight success stories of tenets and neighbors. That would be really helpful. As a veteran, I will always be happy to help fight for housing. I looked up all of your sites. This looks great and feels good. I'm not sure what I can do to help advocate. Writing BCC and Planning Commission? What would help this project happen?</p> <p>Kindly, Kelly Welker</p>	<p>Kelly Welker Mondays and Wednesdays Anytime K.welker08@gmail.com</p>	Nearby property owner	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
21	2/22/21 22:03:34	What do the floor plans look like? What type of support will be offered?	<p>Tiffany Moloney Pinkrose1_1999@yahoo.com</p>	Interested resident of Burien	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
22	2/23/21 10:21:20	<p>I'm not in support of this project. It's in the heart of Burien and when they put transit in the heart of Burien, these same folks have robbed, burglarized, used drugs in open spaces, urinated on small business property and have really made the neighborhood unsafe. To the point where my family has stopped using transportation there.</p> <p>Also your options below do not represent all, I own property in Burien but my family lives in the property and we all lived there for a good 20yrs. I live in just 15min away.</p>	<p>Sabrina S 253-571-8706</p>	Nearby property owner	No response; no question asked	N/A

23	2/23/21 12:59:02	<p>How will you ensure that downtown Burien remains a safe place to walk around and shop with my family without unstable residents wondering the downtown? I personally visited some of your other housing sites and saw an unstable-looking man wondering around and looking in cars right outside of the building.</p> <p>The proposed location is much more suburban than your other locations and is where Burien and neighboring community residents specifically come to be outside, shop, and play at the park.</p>	<p>Name: Chris. I will be attending the Outreach Zoom meeting on 2/23/21. Email: picodicolico@gmail.com</p>	Interested resident of Burien	<p>Hello Chris,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment on the DESC Burien website. I am working on responding to everyone and I apologize I was unable to get to your question prior to the Virtual Public Meeting. Were you able to attend and receive responses to your questions? If not, please look out for the FAQ document we will post soon our website. We are compiling comments/questions that were asked by community members throughout this project and will have that document posted here very soon.</p> <p>Again, thanks for reaching out!</p>	Julie Nordgren
24	2/23/21 14:12:57	<p>I agree step one in addressing homelessness is getting a home. I'm hoping, as you will be building fresh, that the building can address the growing challenges posed by the changing climate; e.g. well insulated, adequate hvac (keep smoke out in summer, keep warmth in during winter), as free from fossil fuels as possible, possibly LEED certified (non-toxic materials), maybe solar panels/rooftop veg garden, some green space.</p>	<p>Kate Richardson, riverchat_kr@hotmail.com. I'm no expert in building to withstand environmental challenges, but there are plenty of experts around. Plus, Burien is looking into how to minimize future damage by, among other things, permitting building to address known problems.</p>	Interested resident of Burien	<p>Thank you for your comment on the DESC Burien website link about yours hopes that DESC will keep in mind green energy standards in the construction of our site. For our newer buildings, DESC has been able to institute a significant number of utility savings devices and energy efficiency strategies. It is something our development team is committed to and excited about. (Our Hobson Place Phase 2 building which will be completed later this year is obtaining Passive House certification which is very exciting to us!)</p> <p>We are designing DESC Burien with solar panels and energy recovery ventilation which is an HVAC system that uses exhausted air to respectively heat or cool incoming air. Furthermore, we contract with a building envelope consultant who assisted our design team in completing buildings that have excellent air tightness. In our last couple buildings, we were able to institute new utilities monitoring systems which send real-time alerts to DESC's Facilities Team when water is excessively running and where it is occurring. That way, the Facilities Team can contact onsite staff to check for any leakages that may be occurring in tenant apartments. DESC is really excited about putting these new technologies to use and intend to continue exploring energy-saving and green energy innovations.</p>	Julie Nordgren
25	2/23/21 16:50:59	<p>So, I have read the articles about DESC and watched the video abt the eastlake location. I also believe every person deserves safe shelter. And, as a citizen of Burien for 28 years and a home owner for 20 of those years, I also believe citizens of any community deserve to live in a safe and peaceful environment. And, since there are no restrictions on drug and alcohol use for the people who live in the DESC housing, won't the amount of crime/public intoxication go up? Will the Burien police have a greater presence around the apartments? I am torn: I want housing for all and I also want to live in a safe and clean environment.</p>	<p>Laura Denman email lauracnm@gmail.com</p>	Nearby property owner	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren

26	2/23/21 17:05:44	<p>Hello, I work at Harborview medical center and see many of the homeless and vulnerable population that you target.</p> <p>I love the idea of the housing first model, and I hope that the project will be successful in Burien. The world needs more housing first units :) However, I have some concerns.</p> <p>First, has crime or reports of disturbances of any kind gone up after the installment of these housing units? (police report history before/after completion would be the ideal way to reflect this)</p> <p>Second: if there has been an increase in crime or disturbances with past housing projects, what measures are taken to reduce the negative impact of the housing project on the surrounding business/homes? (increased police presence, security cameras, lighting..etc?)</p> <p>What positive impacts have the housing projects had on the immediately surrounding community?</p> <p>I imagine these questions are common in one form or another for every location of a new housing project. It would be really cool to see their answers in an easy to find place on your website instead of waiting for the community to react with concern to address them.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and the work you do, -Mason</p>	<p>mason 2064195354 weekdays after 3pm</p>	Interested resident of Burien	Not yet contacted; will reach out	Not determined
27	2/23/21 17:37:51	<p>I believe this project will negatively effect the businesses and customer representation that we currently have here in Burien. We are already stressing our Police and Fire Departments with petty calls and disturbances. This is only going to increase the current issues that we are facing. If I could stop this project right now, I WOULD! This is not the conversations and voice that Burien needs.</p> <p>We are just creating and maintaining the negative conversation that Burien has a reputation of. I try my best everyday to change that conversation here, and I feel that I am losing this battle, and this is just one example.</p> <p>We are not a "sanctuary location," there is a way to be passionate and understanding to others that are having a hard time, but this is not the way. In this year already (2021) we have already had 3 break-ins within my street. We have to have cameras in the windows to stop stupid petty crime. We have individuals that are intoxicated and on drugs wondering into our storefronts and we are the ones that have to repair the damages of these individuals. Not the city, not the homeless or mentally ill. These are the Business owner added burdens that has to pick up the pieces for the community. This housing development is only going to put more stress on us until we break, or leave.</p> <p>This year has been hard enough on the businesses in Burien, this is only going to make the struggle harder for the businesses that are currently here. I feel that we are able to have compassion and understanding for people and treat people with kindness but as a business owner in Burien this is one more reason that businesses and the "heart" of this community is getting lost.</p> <p>Growing up here, being Miss Burien, being a current home owner, and a current business owner I have invested most of my life to this community and I don't want it to be lost so that we can have some state funding or become a city that is willing to "support most marginalized and most vulnerable people first, not the most cooperative." (This is directly from the DESC Website.**)</p> <p>(**DESC works to end the homelessness of vulnerable people, particularly those living with serious mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and/or chronic health conditions. We choose to work with the most marginalized and most vulnerable people first, not the most cooperative.)</p>	<p>Beka Atwood, The Shoppe Seahurst 903 SW. 152nd Street, Burien WA 98166 206-510-5102</p>	Nearby business owner	No response; no question asked	N/A
28	2/23/21 21:01:44	<p>Thank you for this evening's Zoom meeting. As a long time Burien resident and former business owner, I look forward to our community beginning to add to the support of people in need.</p>	<p>I'd like to be on mailing lists about the project. Mark Greenfield markdgrnf@aol.com</p>	Interested resident of Burien	Added to mailing list	N/A
29	2/27/21 16:17:09	<p>I can not support this project. The City of Burien already has far to many homeless in the area. Bringing more people with mental health issues, or addiction problems into the neighborhood will only increase the problems.</p>		Nearby business owner	No response; no contact info	N/A

30	3/1/21 12:47:17	Not here! Who is trying to shove this down our throats? Stop the drug culture from taking root here. Burien will be a magnet for "druggies." If you want to help druggies, use the Union Gospel Mission approach, ie; high barrier (no drugs or alcohol) coupled with religious inspiration.	Erik Olson, 206-246-8322, 9am to 5 pm; leave message	Interested resident of Burien	No response; no question asked	N/A
	3/1/21 16:12:42	Is this project fully approved by the City Council? How many homeless are currently located in Burien?	Jean Hoffman email: jean_m_hoffman@yahoo.com	Nearby property owner	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
	3/5/21 22:20:05	I am very concerned about the rising crime in Burien and believe the new DESC project will bring more criminal activity to our community. What will DESC do to protect local businesses from becoming victims along the Ambaum corridor?	J. Storer email: jstorer@AirportTow.com	Nearby business owner	Response made by email	Julie Nordgren
	3/9/21 10:19:55	I am so happy to hear about this plan to bring DESC's expertise and programs to Burien. As a neighbor, healthcare provider, and homeless advocate, I have been telling anyone who will listen that homeless services are desperately needed here.	Monica Zamora monicajz@uw.edu	Nearby property owner	No response; no question asked	N/A
	3/13/21 8:36:34	I believe this concept is a poor decision in a rush attempted to reward very few financially. The idea proposed has 0 data of residing population benefits, from such concepts in smaller cities similar to Burien. Seattle's affordable housing program of similar build has a flood of data to petty crime, violence, property damage to near by businesses. Even the smaller businesses are vocal about the amount of petty crimes that occur towards them in Seattle. The toll of such decisions will further pressure our small police force. Instead focus on the development of a smaller hotel, or to support ghost kitchens, vertical gardens, last mile logistics, etc via company's such as Reef Technologies. The social issues being focused on are not in the best economic interests of the majority of Burien, and those who are already funding the short minded thinking of our current city officials. We're in a crucial time of opportunity to incubate larger financial merits from larger institutions and such concept is only supporting property developers seeking the social causes of today's environment for their benefit and not the greater population already residing. The larger revenue top line from more stable sources of income should steer the city to keep the current residents and those who are looking to be near Seattle to consider Burien. This concept will steer high income and bigger business investors away from Burien, knowing the limited disposable income of such residents. Think bigger and more forward now, to allow additional funds to be supporting low income housing much easier in other parts of the city so mid size and larger businesses want to be in Burien. Such larger businesses will have a more stable base and need less assistance during turbulent times, furthermore proven by the current predicament of small businesses struggling at this moment in small thinking Burien. Reach out to the highest paying property tax residents and businesses to understand their thinking and ideas before focusing so heavily on such social causes.	206-502-9854 after 4pm	Nearby property owner	No response; no question asked	N/A
	3/15/21 11:47:57	NOT IN DOWNTOWN BURIEN. PLEASE	Life time resident before Burien became a city. This is not ok. Burien is a small town with senior all about including me. It will not be safe to walk my dog and visit friends. We will all be scared to death of this project. Anywhere else but downtown Burien. Please	Nearby property owner	No response; no contact info	N/A
	3/16/21 14:30:52	Which buildings in Burien will be torn down for this project?		Nearby renter	No response; no contact info	N/A

## 12. Summary of the Virtual Public Meeting

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### **February Virtual Public Meeting**

Over 140 people showed up for the Virtual Public Meeting held on February 23, 2021 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The program consisted of a slideshow presentation from Executive Director Daniel Malone, Director of Housing Noah Fay, and Director of Facilities and Property Development Sondra Nielsen followed by Breakout Groups where DESC staff were available in each group to respond to attendee feedback and questions. The presentation included information about what services DESC provides, how our permanent supportive housing model works, the specifics of the DESC Burien building design, and a virtual video tour of DESC's most recent project Hobson Place Phase 1.

During the presentation, many individuals chimed in to ask questions or express support in the chat portion of Zoom. The chat transcript may be found in Section 14 of this report. DESC staff members who facilitated the Breakout Groups worked to respond to chat questions while the presentation commenced.

All in all, there were ten Breakout Groups with two staff facilitating each (one to primarily respond to questions and one to take notes). Each group had approximately 12-15 attendees. (Please note that several individuals joined the meeting after the Breakout Groups started, thus I was unable to capture the names of those 4-5 attendees.)

Most questions and criticism were about DESC's tenant population and whether or not these individuals would make the neighborhood less safe. Staff primarily fielded questions about how DESC approaches drug use, inappropriate neighborhood behavior and in-building conflict. There were also questions about our staffing model, what type of supportive services are offered, and how equipped DESC staff are to handle client crises.

DESC Burien had quite a few proponents express themselves in these groups as well. Many expressed appreciation for our services and housing model and of DESC's commitment to ending homelessness. All in all, we got fairly few questions about the design of DESC Burien, though some attendees wanted to know about the proposed construction timeline and green features of the building. Detailed notes can be found on the following pages.

### **March Virtual Small Business Meeting**

In partnership with Discover Burien and the Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce, on March 23, 2021, DESC hosted a second virtual meeting focusing on small business community. There were about 55 people that attended including business owners, surrounding residents, and City of Burien staff. Many attendees asked thoughtful questions, and many expressed tentative or whole-hearted support of the project.

Daniel Malone, Noah Fay, and Director of Operations Steven Bullock presented the information from the same slideshow that was presented in February. Also, Debra George with Discovery Burien and Andrea Raey with Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce provided feedback from their visit to DESC's Rainer House location. Following the presentation, the group broke into 5 smaller groups that consists of 6-10 people and two DESC staff to respond to attendee feedback and questions.

A copy of the transcript for this Zoom meeting is available in Section 16 below. Recordings of the main session and the breakout sessions are available. The main session is available at this link:

<https://vimeo.com/528164193/28492ac5f1>

Four out of five of the breakout session recordings may be found at the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/530557629/7016f479cb>. Unfortunately, the 5<sup>th</sup> group had technical difficulties and were unable to obtain a viable recording for that session. Notes for this session are included below.

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**DESC Staff:**

Steven Bullock, Director of Operations

Marisa Connell, Housing Programs Assistant

**Attendees:**

Jenny Partch

Kate Bitney

Aaron Burkhalter

Susan

**Questions and Comments:**

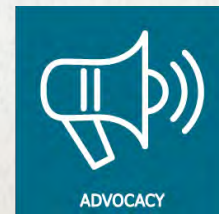
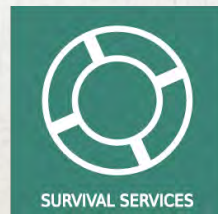
- What do we see in the neighborhood?
- Will we see increased drug use / people hanging out in the neighborhood?
- Will this reduce the number of people we currently see [on the street] in Burien?
- Who gets to live there?

# DESC Burien Supportive Housing

## Virtual Public Meeting

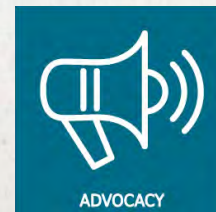
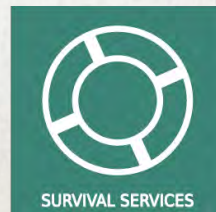


February 23, 2021  
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



# MEETING SCHEDULE

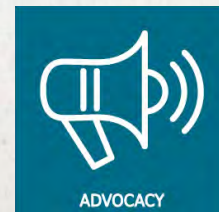
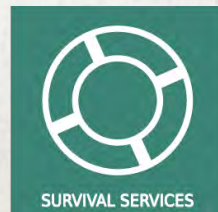
- Welcome
- Introduction to DESC
- DESC Burien Housing Model: What is Permanent Supportive Housing?
- DESC Burien Supportive Housing Design
- Video – A Tour of DESC Hobson Place
- Small Group Discussion: Ask Questions, Give Feedback
- Reconvene – Further Contact Options





# DESC SERVICES

- Founded in 1979 as overnight emergency shelter
- Today, DESC provides a multitude of services that provide health and housing to vulnerable people experiencing homelessness:
  - Behavioral health services
  - Crisis intervention services
  - Outreach
  - Supported employment program
  - 508 shelter beds and survival services
  - Over 1200 permanent supportive housing units across multiple neighborhoods in Seattle.



# Housing First

## Housing First Philosophy:

- Housing is a basic human right
- Once the chaos of homelessness is eliminated from a person's life, clinical and social stabilization occurs faster and is more long lasting
- Prioritize those with highest need

## DESC supportive housing:

- Tenants sign a lease
- Tenants pay rent
- Permanent and Independent
- DESC brings services to tenants



# SERVICES FOR TENANTS



Case management or support services on-site



Meals and transportation assistance



Community events or groups on-site



Accessible building design



Medical outreach



Help with chores



HOUSING FIRST



HEALTH SERVICES



SURVIVAL SERVICES



CRISIS RESPONSE



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



ADVOCACY



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



INTEGRATED SERVICES



## SAFETY-ORIENTED

- Secure entries
- Reception desk staffed 24 hours a day
- Visitor check-in
- Good Neighbor Policy

# EXPECTATIONS

- Good Neighbor Policy
- DESC staff response
- Tenant expectations and lease enforcement



HOUSING FIRST



HEALTH SERVICES



SURVIVAL SERVICES



CRISIS RESPONSE



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



ADVOCACY



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



INTEGRATED SERVICES

# Outcomes



Works for people who refuse or are refused from other interventions



High housing retention rates



Reduces crisis systems costs



Improves health status



Reduces substance use and related problems



Decreases criminal justice system involvement



Begins to reconnect people with the life of the community

# Homelessness in Southwest King County



- 16% of all of King County people experiencing homelessness are staying in Southwest King County.\*
- DESC Burien will seek tenants who are currently experiencing homelessness in the City of Burien.
- DESC Burien will set aside 25 units for veterans experiencing homelessness.

\*From the King County All Home 2020 Count Us In Report, [https://regionalhomelesssystem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Count-Us-In-2020-Final\\_7.29.2020.pdf](https://regionalhomelesssystem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Count-Us-In-2020-Final_7.29.2020.pdf)

# Rainier House

5270 Rainier Avenue South



- Opened in 2009
- 50 units of permanent supportive housing



# Aurora House

10507 Aurora Avenue North

- Opened in 2013
- 87 permanent supportive housing units



# DESC Burien Building Design

- 95 studio units
- Level 1 spaces:
  - Reception desk
  - Consult rooms for one-on-one case management
  - Medical office
  - Lounge area
  - Conference room for groups and activities
  - Commercial kitchen and dining area



DESC Burien building designed by SMR Architects



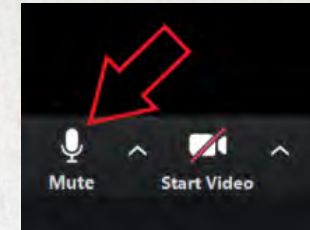
Volunteers prepare a Hobson Place apartment for its new tenant



# Breakout Groups

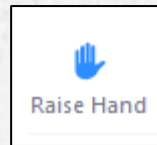
- Participants will be automatically assigned to one of ten breakout groups for discussion, questions, and feedback.
- DESC staff will be present in each group to answer questions and take down comments.
- If you are calling in, you will be automatically moved to a breakout group. Please press \*6 to mute and unmute yourself.

# Zoom Best Practices



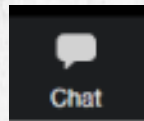
- Please stay muted when you are not speaking
- It is hard to know when to talk in a Zoom setting.

To prevent this, you may:



- Click the “raise hand” button and a facilitator will call on you to speak

or



- Type your question or comment into the chat box and a facilitator will ask you to unmute

or

- Wait until the last speaker has finished

# THANK YOU!

We welcome your questions and feedback!

[info@desc.org](mailto:info@desc.org)

<https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien/>



## 14. February Virtual Public Meeting Zoom Transcript

### DESC Burien Supportive Housing

Virtual Neighborhood Community Meeting – 02/23/2021, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

### Zoom Chat Transcription

[FOR DESC INTERNAL USE ONLY]

[Comments highlighted in Green are comments from DESC staff]

00:04:58 monaanderson: Hi All, Has the meeting started?

00:05:36 Omaha Sternberg: Will be starting shortly.

00:08:56 monaanderson: will all the meeting be recorded for playback and whole meeting for those who have to leave meeting before its done?

00:09:39 Sondra Nielsen: The general group meeting will be recorded and can be available after.

00:09:43 Omaha Sternberg: Well, they are recording now. I assume that they will record the entire meeting but since I'm not part of DESC I don't know for sure.

00:10:00 monaanderson: thank you

00:11:45 monaanderson: Is DESC willing to work with Catholic community services and local organizations that are already heres?

00:11:58 Christina LoPinto: Can you turn up the volume?

00:12:42 Christina LoPinto: I can hardly hear you.

00:13:01 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: you can turn volume up on your computer

00:13:38 Christina LoPinto: It is as loud as I can turn it

00:14:32 Omaha Sternberg: I can hear him fine, Christina, so I'm afraid that the problem may be your hardware. :(

00:15:47 Sondra Nielsen: Christina, please give us your email we will happily follow up for discussion and to review the slides. Email me directly so you don't have to share your email with the group. [snielsen@desc.org](mailto:snielsen@desc.org)

00:20:48 Janine Anzalota: Just want to share I have friends who own a condo in belltown, next to DESC properties and they say DESC are great neighbors. As a Burien resident, I want to extend my support for supportive housing in Burien.

00:20:57 monaanderson: Is the lease agreement available to the public to review?

00:21:25 monaanderson: unsigned, of course.

00:21:28 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: I love that Housing as a right! No one should be unhoused!

00:21:59 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: and the wrap around services!!!!

00:22:32 Nancy Kick (she/they): YES! Jennifer. I agree 100% - as does the research.



00:23:27 CC JC: Completely agree Jennifer!!!

00:23:29 Savannah: Increased resources and aid for unhoused people needing assistance in our region would be wonderful. The problem of homelessness will not go away on it's own. I welcome this proactive, thoughtful, professional approach.

00:24:15 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: ^^^^  
Yes Savannah you can't just kick it down the road!

00:25:24 Sarah Moore she/they: I love how much experience and prior knowledge you bring to this. I feel like we are getting a program that has been tested in detail and has already addressed some of the concerns that people might have.

00:25:37 Jen: What does "lease enforcement" entail, and have you ever evicted someone? If so, what is the process for that (is anything done to help them find other resources)?

00:25:59 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate:  
Everything I have read this seems like such a wonderful addition to our community!

00:26:30 Janine Anzalota: I appreciate all of the supportive comments in this chat! The struggle our disabled and homeless neighbors have experienced during the pandemic has increased significantly. Programs like this make me proud to be a home owner in Burien.

00:27:02 Kathy Hazen: I agree. DESC has a lot of experience and they are very well organized and have a lot of support from their partners.

00:27:17 Marisa: Hi Mona, we haven't yet developed the lease for this site. However the leases for our other projects are basically like those for any other apartments. There are a couple of specific addenda to the leases: The Good Neighbor Agreement or Policy that Noah is discussing now; and a Visitor Policy. The visitor policy, among other aspects, requires that visitors sign in and show ID to staff.

00:27:23 David: Who is paying for the residents rent?

00:28:13 Sondra Nielsen: David - King County through vouchers and operations subsidy

00:28:48 Kelsey Beckmeyer: All tenants pay 30% of their income toward rent.

00:29:05 monaanderson: Thank you Marisa

00:29:05 Jen and Zoe: Our family is very supportive of this project! and yes housing is a basic human right!

00:29:10 Linda Akey: Do some tenants have other sources of income like VA, Disability, Social Security

00:29:44 Kelsey Beckmeyer: Linda, yes. Majority our tenants are on fixed income like SSI and Disability.

00:29:54 Linda Akey: Thank you.

00:30:26 Marisa: People are asking some great questions. If they don't get answered in the large group or chat, please ask them in the small group breakouts. Thank you for your interest!

00:30:53 Sarah Moore she/they: Harm reduction saves lives. So glad to see that DESC uses this realistic and human-centered approach.

00:31:08 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: ^^^^  
yes Sarah yes!

00:31:28 Irene Danysh: Agree strongly with harm reduction.

00:31:30 Omaha Sternberg: I definitely want to learn more about Harm Reduction approach.

00:31:44 CC JC: Yes, I am supportive!

00:31:59 Janine Anzalota: harm reduction is a science based public health approach.

00:32:26 Savannah: I have personally engaged in harm reduction programs for unhoused people with substance use disorders, and have seen people get back on their feet.

00:33:28 Omaha Sternberg: Homelessness is a national problem. :( I'm so glad that there are groups like DESC working on it.

00:33:34 LM: I'm curious where the needles end up after they are provided?

00:34:09 CC JC: This is wonderful. I'd like to get involved in the Bi

00:34:25 Sarah Moore she/they: Will DESC be working with LEAD on identifying people in Burien who might be a good fit for this program?

00:34:40 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: I would imagine they have needle bins in the building

00:35:10 CC JC: Sorry. I'd like to get involved on a volunteer basis in the Burien project.

00:35:14 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: That is beautiful building

00:35:20 Marisa: LM, sharps containers are in public areas (restrooms etc) and provided to individual tenants if needed. The needles do not end up in parks / sidewalks / etc.

00:35:51 Julie DESC: CC JC, please feel free to email me!  
jnordgren@desc.org

00:36:04 Lita: Sharps containers are already in libraries etc for those with diabetes etc..

00:36:19 Irene Danysh: Very happy about trees to be added!

00:36:49 David: Are you referring to opportunity zone tax credit?

00:36:50 Kate Richardson: Sorry if these were addressed at the beginning: Is DESC a non-profit? How is it funded? Requirements for bldg staff? Single occupancy only, or...? Pets, children?

00:37:15 Sarah Moore she/they: Universal design in the kitchen?

00:37:24 Marisa: LM - part 2 - actually providing someone with a sharps container can help start conversations with tenants about their use, health, what kind of assistance they need, etc. that they would not be having if they felt judged.

00:37:24 Janine Anzalota: Sharp containers are already in fred meyer and other grocery store bathrooms. Many people with medical conditions need sharps containers.

00:37:49 John Rizzardi/Seahurst: Housing>An address>can apply for work>earns income and improves credit and stability>gets their life back.

00:37:58 Andrew: is there adequate parking?

00:38:17 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: They mentioned that many tenants don't have cars/drive

00:38:17 Marisa: Kate - Yes it's a nonprofit. Funding is complex, please ask in small group. Yes, single adults only. No pets (other than fish I think?) but some people have service animals.

00:38:25 Megan Mayes (she/her): David, tax credit refers to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)

00:38:39 Marisa: Andrew - on average one tenant at each of our buildings has a car.

00:39:18 Andrew: Parking for staff and visitors?

00:39:48 Brandie (she/her): Dan you are a superstar on video

00:39:51 Janine Anzalota: Will the development be walking distance from public transportation?

00:39:57 Julie DESC: We are planning for several parking spots for staff/visitors

00:40:02 Kelly Tongg (she/her): Sarah, DESC's COAT Program actually collaborates closely with REACH and LEAD. So in short to your question, yes!

00:40:32 PDillon: so parking would be allowed fo tem

00:40:46 Omaha Sternberg: because the building will be close to the Burien Transit center, will there be Metro pass cards available to tenants, to encourage the use of public transit instead of using cars?

00:40:58 Marisa: Sarah - I don't know if there is a specific plan yet around working with LEAD on this - we're still a ways out - but we do have a good working relationship with LEAD already, as well as a lot of other service providers.

00:41:26 Janine Anzalota: I love the safety features!

00:41:51 Marisa: Janine - yes - we prioritize being near major transportation lines

00:41:52 Aaron Burkhalter: Adding to Kelly's comment. I'm the project manager for LEAD in Burien and we've had a great partnership with DESC. (aaron.burkhalter@defender.org)

00:42:27 Alison Eisinger, Coalition on Homelessness: I'm impressed at how thoughtfully the whole process is - everything from providing linens

to people who don't have them to thinking about sidewalks and trees, to benefit the whole community.

00:42:41 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate: ^^^

00:42:56 Kate Richardson: Do you take donations of linens, kitchen supplies, etc?

00:43:24 Marisa: Omaha - most tenants will qualify for reduced fare bus permits and we can help them apply. We also have some bus tickets we are able to provide tenants for medical appointments, social service appointments, etc.

00:43:33 Megan Mayes (she/her): Hi Kate, we do! You can email me at [mmayes@desc.org](mailto:mmayes@desc.org)

00:44:02 Julie DESC: You may also go to <https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien/> for contact info!

01:02:12 Leo Hrechanyk: What timeline are we looking at?

01:02:14 Julie DESC: Please contact us at the information on <https://www.desc.org/what-we-do/housing/burien/> There is also a comment form that you may fill out and put your contact info into.

01:02:19 Jen and Zoe: Imported???

01:02:33 Julie DESC: We plan to start construction in early 2021 and finish the building in Spring of 2023

01:02:37 Brandie (she/her): Thanks DESC. I appreciate all the great info

01:02:40 Maria Jacinto (She/Her/Hers): We welcome your questions and feedback! Email us at [info@desc.org](mailto:info@desc.org)

01:02:41 Julie DESC: I'm sorry. Early 2022

01:02:54 Jennifer Fichamba Burien resident, parent, advocate:  
Thank you so much! This is awesome!

01:02:55 Ben Fader: grateful for the conversation and context

01:02:56 Sam Mendez (he/him): asked the question about on-site security or altercation management: [ybagdasa@gmail.com](mailto:ybagdasa@gmail.com)

01:02:59 Sondra Nielsen: We will work to answer questions quickly!

01:03:13 Alison Eisinger, Coalition on Homelessness: Thank you so much, DESC for your work to house people in our community.

01:03:16 Jen: Thank you all so much for all this information and your vision for helping our Burien residents who so desperately need these services!

01:03:20 Janine Anzalota: appreciate the good work you do

01:03:21 Sarah Moore she/they: Great presentation. Excited to have you in the neighborhood

01:03:29 Cesar Linares (he/him, cmnty member, ccgs): Thank you!

01:03:29 Savannah: Thank you! Excited for this added resource to our community

01:03:34 Patience Malaba, HDC (She/Her): Thank you so much for the important work you are doing!

01:03:38 Maria Jacinto (She/Her/Hers): Thank you so much! We appreciate your time and joining us tonight.

01:03:38 Lorie McMasters: thank you!!

hi cheif Boe

01:03:41 Jen and Zoe: Thank you. This is much needed.

01:03:43 Marisa: Thank you all for coming, and for sharing your thoughts and questions.

01:03:43 Kate Bitney: thanks for your great work and bringing housing to Burien!

01:03:43 Tina Ilvonen: Thanks!

01:03:44 Linda SUNDBLAD: THANKS FORA GREAT PRESENTATION.

## 15. February Virtual Public Meeting Notes from Breakout Groups

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### **Group 1**

#### **DESC Staff:**

Noah Fay, Director of Housing Programs

Regan Farnsworth, Housing Development Coordinator

#### **Attendees:**

CC JC

Christine Erikson

Colleen Brandt-Schluter

Elly Tri...

Kate Bitney

Kerry Lynch

Nancy Wils...

Scott Schaefer-SouthKingMed...

Twyla

Vanessa H.

#### **Questions and Comments:**

- What is to be done to make sure the tenants' various financial obligations and addictions don't result in crime and such around the area?
- How will tenants be integrated and welcomed into the community?
- Will tenants out and about make the neighboring area less family friendly? Or less safe?
- Where, exactly, is the project?
- Can DESC deal with tenants being disruptive/problematic out in the neighborhood? Or Downtown? (I.e. causing problems not just within the apartment building).
- Does DESC have its own security? How do we deal with crises with tenants?

## **Group 2**

### **DESC Staff:**

Daniel Malone, Executive Director

Kelly Tongg, Clinical Program Coordinator

### **Attendees:**

Capcom KingTV

Dan Mathews

Dean Anderson

Debbie Burke

Debra George

Dee Knoff (she/her)

iP...

Kevin Schilling

Kito

Sheenah

Ste...

Susan

Susan McLain, Community Dev...

### **Questions and Comments:**

- Can you walk us through how people will find themselves with a lease? How are they referred? How they find out about the building?
- How are you planning to match residents for the site and will those residents in Burien and South KC be prioritized?
- Dean is a local business owner and expressed concerns around loitering and nuisance to his business. How does DESC plan to address this?
- Dan has been approached about helping people with addiction and wanting to make sure the approach is effective, which has then raised concerns around DESC's approach. Developers at properties like Merrill Gardens have had to hire private security and concern is similar to Dean's concerns above.
- Dan noted that there tends to be siloed approaches to the care of this population and is wanting to come in as a more solution based and provide a web of services so care team is aware of what's going on with tenants. Will DESC work with existing neighborhood groups like neighborhood watch?

### **Group 3**

#### **DESC Staff:**

Sondra Nielsen, Director of Facilities and Property Development

Lisa Grillo, Substance Use Disorder Program Manager

#### **Attendees:**

Brandie (she/her)

Chris H

judy@printcomic.com

Lynda Isernio

Marty Kooistra he/him

Matthew Finnigan

Michael Won

PDillon

Rhw421

#### **Questions and Comments:**

- Is DESC low/no barrier?
- Can we expect more people experiencing homelessness to be living in cars or motorhomes near the building?
- How many people are removed from housing due to violations?
- How many people in Burien are experiencing homelessness?
- Will there be an increased demand for EMS services?
- Who owns DESC?
- What will be the impact on elderly residents in Burien?



## **Group 4**

### **DESC Staff:**

Maggie Hostnick, Director of Clinical Programs

Maria Jacinto, Executive Coordinator

### **Attendees:**

Alison Eisinger, Coalition on H...

Amilford

Augusta Milford

Barbara Miller

Ben Fad...

Ben Miksch | He/Him

Christopher Bartlett

Daniel Magpali

Emily Inlow-Hood

Jeff Green

Kate Richardson

Omaha Sternberg

Ross Smith

### **Questions and Comments:**

- Omaha Sternberg: I'm not familiar with the Harm Reduction philosophy and was hoping to get some details or an overview about it here or via email. There was a lot of information going around regarding some residents may be possibly have addiction issues. Is it something DESC identify early before a person enter housing? What are the steps you take to deal with it? Are they required to go into rehab in order to become a tenant?
- Daniel Magpali: It seems like this presentation is geared towards those folks who may feel hesitant to have a building like this and I've lived in cities where there have been large number of people protesting against something like this. Do you foresee that happening in Burien? Do you get the sense that this will not go through because of those folks who are "NIMBY" folks? Or maybe you choose Burien because we maybe a community that accepts this type of housing?
- Jeff Green: When you went to Renton, the amount of police, fire and EMT calls and local property crimes skyrocketed. Can you address the reason for that or is there any way to stop that? Have there been over 300 calls in less than a year at the Red Lion?
- Ben Fader: Expressed his gratitude for making this meeting available to the community. Curious about input process and what DESC hope to get from the community as we move this project forward. What do you hope to hear from community members and what you hope to implement from the community feedback and the process for that?

## **Group 5**

### **DESC Staff:**

Steven Bullock, Deputy Director of Operations

Kelsey Beckmeyer, Senior Housing Program Manager

### **Attendees:**

20629097...

Amanda

Annesley DeHaven

Janine Anzalo

Jean Hoffman

Jen and Z...

John Rizzardi/Seahurst

K..

Laura Glisson

Linda Stryker

Margret Alley

Sam Mendez (he/him)

Sean Hardgrove

### **Questions and Comments:**

- How many people are experiencing homelessness in the City of Burien?
- What training is provided to staff regarding violence and safety? Other concerns about violence and staff having to be the ones to respond.
- Is there going to be security? What measures do we take to support and ensure staff safety?
- What do we avoid calling the police?
- How do we minimize reliance on police? Asked largely in line with defunding and how police have caused more harm to people with mental health crises.

## **Group 6**

### **DESC Staff:**

Ron Abram, Senior Housing Program Manager

Danielle Burt, Supported Employment Program Manager

### **Attendees:**

Barbara Petersen

Carnie Barrett

Jack

Jen

Joel Millar

John Woodworth-SMR

Kathy Hazen

KellyFinn

Lore McMasters

Penney Ann Hall

### **Questions and Comments:**

- Two people spoke up in support of the project and one mentioned their support in the chat.
- What's the address?
- When will the project be complete?
- How does DESC determine who is housed at DESC Burien?
- How is relapse handled at DESC Burien? Will tenants be asked to leave for relapse?
- More comments of support.

## **Group 7**

### **DESC Staff:**

Patrick Szymanski, Associate Director of Housing Programs

Scott Starr, Principal, SMR Architects

### **Attendees:**

Beatrice Van Tulder

Bmilli...

Cesar Linares (he/him, cmnty...

David Johanson, Senior Planner

Irene Danysh

Jennifer Fichamba Burien resid...

Ken G

L...

Maria Balsiger

Mark Greenfield

Martin Barrett

Patricia Malaba, HDC (She/Her)

Patty Janss...

### **Questions and Comments:**

- Beatrice Van Tulder: The presentation was remarkable. Looking forward to the facility.
- Jennifer Fichamba: Appreciates the services for residents, and thinks it will be a good addition to community.
- Ken G: Didn't hear if this is men and women, or one person per apartment. Noted that DESC has been around forever. He works at Seattle Public Library and talked about how he likes DESC's Cottage Grove Commons building in the Delridge neighborhood of Seattle.
- Patricia Malaba: Appreciates that this project is helping to create community.
- Irene Danysh: The quality of work looks awesome and it's clear that DESC has good experience. Irene has lived in Burien for many years. She believes it will be a huge asset to community and wants to welcome the residents.
- Beatrice Van Tulder: Worked in cold weather emergency shelter. Burien needs a place for men more – since they already have Mary's Place. She works at Mary's Place, and sees a lot of DESC clients. She is very impressed at the work DESC does.
- Ken G: How long can tenants stay?
- Cesar Linares: What is the process for recruiting tenants? What are some challenges that DESC has faced in past? Does DESC have properties with families?
- Beatrice Van Tulder: Asked if proximity with Navos is part of decision to come to Burien?
- Mark Greenfield: How do you deal with internal security? What happens if two residents have issues?
- Cesar Linares: What other support or training does staff have?

## **Group 8**

### **DESC Staff:**

Del Lausa, Senior Housing Program Manager

Marisa Connell, Housing Program Coordinator

### **Attendees:**

Chief Ted Boe

Christina LoPinto

Kyle Reiter

Leanne Rhys-Jones

Leo Hrechan...

Linda SUNDBL...

Nancy Kick (she/they...

Rebeccaatwood

Rogermeubauer

Savann...

Sh...

Tina Ilvonen

### **Questions and Comments:**

- Christina LoPinto: "I was really scared because I saw what happened in Renton. What is going to be the vetting/screening of people moving in there? I see people who are homeless, and they're doing pretty good. And I see people who have mental health issues, and I see people who have drug issues. My concern is who's going to be moving in, who are we treating, who is the most vulnerable; and who is going to go back and be stealing from Bartell's?"
- Nancy Kick: "I'm really thrilled that you're bringing this service to Burien. We have people in need."
- Leo Hrechanyk: Burien is different today than it was 28 years ago. What is the timeframe of the proposed building and what is the location? What is the average length of stay?
- Rebecca Atwood: Is this absolutely happening or is it something we're starting the conversation on?
- Leanne Rhys-Jones: "Super excited to hear about this project. Homelessness is a statewide problem."
- Kyle Reiter: Thanks and welcome to the neighborhood.

## **Group 9**

### **DESC Staff:**

Dan Williams, Senior Housing Program Manager

Kate Baber, Senior Manager of Healthcare Integration

### **Attendees:**

Aaron Burkhalter

A.

Dorsey

Lauren Ivers...

Linda Akey

Magg...

MB

Megan Espinoza

Nancy Tosta

Patricia's iPad

Sara Moore she/they

### **Questions and Comments:**

- Mark Dorsey: Appreciates our proactive approach and thinks what we are doing is wonderful. What are the most frequent questions/complaints from neighbors during first year of new building? What are the most frequent questions/complaints from neighbors 2-3 years after building opens? Trying to understand community impact (opportunities, challenges, negative impacts). How would a neighbor answer this question? Do we have any workforce shortage concerns for building?
- Sara Moore: Expressed enthusiasm for the project. How long does it take for people to adjust and settle in when they move inside?
- Al: Had a 24-hour courier service business next door to the Crisis Solution Center. It was the best run facility he has seen. Staff are great and they are a fantastic neighbor. Surrounding neighbors were initially apprehensive but soon realized that CSC kept the neighborhood cleaner and their residents contributed to the economy in surrounding businesses. Al sees the project as a big plus for Burien. He indicated that the impact should be no different than Merrill Gardens except that DESC residents don't have cars and spend money locally.

## **Group 10**

### **DESC Staff:**

Megan Mayes, Director of Fund Development

Julie Nordgren, Housing Developer

### **Attendees:**

Andrea Reay

Andrew

Angela San Filippo (she/her)

Beth McCasland

Bmilling

Daniel Martin

David

IM

iPhone

Jules & Jamie

Maju Qureshi, Multi-Service Center

Nancy C

O Gre

Virigina Werner

### **Questions and Comments:**

- Andrea Reay: How will you include businesses in your planning and outreach process?
- Olivia Green: Very concerned about drug use and tenant behavior. How many staff will be at the DESC Burien building? She felt that two minimum staff during off hours was too few for the needs of our residents. She drove by one of our housing projects on Aurora and said there was garbage everywhere and there was a person screaming on the sidewalk.
- Jules & Jamie: Expressed their displeasure at our 1811 building and that it looked nice for a few years but became surrounded by trash later. She said it was a mess for businesses. She asked if there was a way for people to stop us and if the DESC Burien project was a "done deal".
- Olivia Green: Wanted to know how many people we place in jobs. Time ran out before an answer could be provided.

## 16. March Virtual Small Business Meeting Zoom Transcript

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### DESC Burien Supportive Housing

Virtual Neighborhood Businesses Community Meeting - 03/23/2021, 6:00pm – 7:30pm

### Zoom Chat Transcription

[Comments highlighted in Green are comments from DESC staff]

00:24:25 Mark G: There seems to be some confusion about the address of the facility. Is it on the property adjacent to, and maybe including the Post Office, or at the Burien Professional Center block?

00:24:41 Julie Nordgren: It is at the Burien Professional Center block.

00:24:53 Julie Nordgren: 801 SW 150th St.

00:32:34 Julie Nordgren: This is a Google maps link that shows the site:  
<https://goo.gl/maps/iapXF5xTzAPDwrCa9>

00:33:51 Dike Linda: Do we have a headcount of how many people located in Burien are homeless? Would this facility just take in Burien homeless or will others be brought in from all over King County?

00:37:12 Julie Nordgren: This facility will specifically be targeting individuals experiencing homelessness who are already staying in Burien.

00:37:23 O Green: Heavily Staffed - we were told at the last meeting there are only 2 people at the facility!!!

00:38:48 Marisa Connell: @O Green I work at DESC. I am guessing this was the minimum staff onsite at all times. Overnight when most people are asleep there may only be two staff.

00:39:04 Julie Nordgren: While no one has done a specific head count of those people experiencing homelessness in Burien, the Count Us In report from 2020 shows that 16% of King County's homeless population stays in Southwest King County. There are around 11,000 homeless (at least as of this 2020 counting) in King County.

00:39:17 O Green: We wer Told that there are only 2 people on staff throughout the day

00:39:28 O Green: Sorry - we were told!

00:39:39 DEBRA GEORGE: Some of the main questions we got from the community are: 1) Why pick a location so close to our downtown commercial area? 2) Why take away one of the few office buildings 3)What Is the eviction rate and success rate.

00:40:02 O Green: I agree with Debra!

00:40:09 Julie Nordgren: Doing the math, around 1760 people experiencing homelessness in Southwest King County.

00:41:03 Julie Nordgren: Ms. Green, I was in the group with you at the other meeting, and we did mention our case managers would be onsite as well as property management staff such as the project manager and project coordinator.

00:41:48 Julie Nordgren: This comes to approximately 8-10 people on site during day shift.



00:42:33 Carol: aren't most homeless in camps in seattle or unincorporated king county? isn't that where this should be built?

00:42:51 O Green: I don't remember those numbers - however, I remember hearing something about 73 calls to 911 most recently at the place on Rainier!

00:43:59 Marisa Connell: @carol I believe the choice of location will be addressed shortly. If there are still questions about that after, let's definitely bring them up in the breakout rooms.

00:45:04 O Green: What is honest and direct???

00:45:15 O Green: How do you treat people with substance abuse?

00:47:03 Kathy Hazen: The location seems ideal. It is near bus lines and shopping. Many homeless people do not have cars. I'm guessing that many "neighbors" would not want this supportive housing beside a school or park. I feel that this is an ideal solution to help our homeless population. Everyone is safer- especially our homeless- if they have in fact a home.

00:47:44 Sondra Nielsen: Thanks Kathy - it is true that most people in our housing do not have cars.

00:48:17 O Green: I agree that everyone needs a home, however if the majority of people who would be living here have issues with mental health and drug abuse... they do NOT have an answer for treatment!!!

00:48:26 O Green: Lots of marketing bullet points!!!!!!

00:48:33 Jill Dell: Thank you for the work and mental health resources support you provide in the greater community. Do you currently provide any outreach currently within the homeless population in Burien?

00:49:16 Nancy Hahn: This is an amazing gift to Burien. So compassionate and forward thinking.

00:49:27 Carol: Yes we need more help for difficult situations and addicts but how do we know this building isn't going to turn into a big party paid for by the tax payers???

00:49:57 O Green: Just an FYI, we drove by Clemet house, and it doesn't look like that at all - lots of trash around the house. It's right off aurora!

00:50:43 Carol: "It's going to" has this already been decided on???. Is this meeting just to tickle our ears? Have you already made a deal with the Burien government???

00:50:57 O Green: I hope not, Carol!

00:50:59 Kate Bitney (she/her): having a safe, stable place to live is such an important and necessary thing for people to have as they work on various goals- including mental health and substance use. thanks for bringing this opportunity to Burien!

00:51:10 Terri Hewitt: Are there ways for the community to volunteer at the DESC Burien site?

00:51:21 Carol: They picked Burien because the Burien gov is the only local gov that will allow them

00:51:28 O Green: But, these people are not being helped regarding their issues

00:51:44 Julie Nordgren: @Jill: Our Mobile Crisis Team may do outreach to individuals in Burien when they are summoned by emergency services. We are currently reaching out to service providers who already to outreach in Burien so we can learn who needs to be reached for housing there.

00:51:45 Marisa Connell: Re: treatment for mental health and substance abuse treatment. DESC has state licensed mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. This is separate from the housing but this enables housing case managers to connect tenants to treatment who have not been engaged in treatment before.

00:51:55 O Green: Let's look at an older DESC building - not the newest one!

00:52:22 Jenny Partch: @ O Green, People who live with mental illness such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder will always live with this illness. It does not go away. Medications are not 100% effective in reducing the affects of these illnesses either. Therefore, many people self-medicate to deal with the issues they have that medication does not take care of. Unfortunately, this leads to addiction for many. DESC does work with people to better medicate their illness and reduce their alcohol and drug use. Please do not take an all or nothing attitude towards this work. Mental illness is not something any one chooses to experience.

00:52:30 Erin Rants (she/her): Hi Carol, I've been in a number of DESC buildings, and they're quiet. DESC is serious about their community involvement and they've done the most of anyone to get our vulnerable elders off the street and have greatly improved lives.

00:53:14 Julie Nordgren: @Erin: Thanks! I'm glad you've had this experience -- we take our role as good neighbors seriously.

00:53:14 Carol: Has the Burien City Council and Brian Wilson already okayed this??????

00:53:16 Marisa Connell: @Terri, I'm sure there will be opportunities to volunteer in the future. Thanks for asking.

00:53:20 O Green: Please show us some of your older DESC facilities - inside and outside - not the newest!!!

00:53:42 Andrea Reay: The City Council needs to approve DESC's application for inclusion in their Affordable Housing Demonstration Program. More details on the Program here [https://www.burienwa.gov/business/community\\_development/planning\\_initiatives/affordable\\_housing\\_demonstration\\_program](https://www.burienwa.gov/business/community_development/planning_initiatives/affordable_housing_demonstration_program)

00:53:48 Julie Nordgren: We will be presenting to the Burien City Council at their April 5th meeting.

00:54:43 Jill Dell: Is there a way for business owners or community members to tour facilities currently?

00:55:25 Sondra Nielsen: Yes, not all DESC buildings are new, we have wonderful older buildings that are in the historic district of Pioneer Square. We work hard to preserve those units and the Facilities team does an amazing job at their work.

00:55:55 Carol: We just welcomed a Mary's Place into Burien which is working very well. Isn't it time another city stepped up to help? Has Burien been promised to be the problem solution center of south seattle? We need to have more transparency into what's been going on behind closed doors. Thank you.

00:55:58 O Green: It's great to hear about your "team" of staff - I fear that your turnover rate is extremely high, just by reviewing the jobs that are available at your facilities.

00:56:38 Kathy Hazen: People with mental health and drug abuse problems already live in Burien!! They live on the streets and we find used needles in our parks. Everyone is safer if we try to house them and help them with their mental health issues and work with them to overcome their addictions.

00:56:49 Nancy Hahn: This is great! I love all the built in safety features.

00:57:06 Jill Dell: Agreed Kathy.

00:57:43 Terri Hewitt: I work at an older school in our local district-being in an older building does not make my students or staff any less then the students at staff at newer schools. just sayin'

00:57:58 Nancy Hahn: Our company will totally adopt an apartment. What a cool idea.

00:59:07 Kate Bitney (she/her): people with mental health and substance use issues already live in Burien- not only experiencing homelessness, but also already housed. we have a lot more in common with our neighbors- housed and unhoused- than anyone probably realizes or thinks about.

01:32:18 Sharyn: Thank you!

01:32:23 Nancy Hahn: Thank you. This was really informative.

01:34:05 Julie Nordgren: Thank you all for these thoughtful questions!

01:34:30 Virginia Wright: Thank you for taking the time to make sure we have good information.

01:34:38 Kate Bitney (she/her): thanks, DESC!

01:34:39 Ken Gollersrud/Lita Artis:thanks

## 17. Conclusion

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DESC acknowledges that our neighborhood outreach certainly does not stop with our virtual public meetings. We have long viewed neighborhood relationships as a crucial part of our work, both when developing a project and then later, when operating it. We are committed to continuing to incorporate neighborhood feedback into our planning process. We are committed to continued response to community members who contact us whether it be by phone, email, or website.

Thank you for your attention to our outreach process and this report. Please contact Julie Nordgren at [jnordgren@desc.org](mailto:jnordgren@desc.org) or (253) 245-7744 if you have questions about this Outreach Report.

***The DESC Burien Development Team***