Summary of Recommendations			% of Each Rating						Combined Rating			Results
Cate-gory	Item	Action	1	2	3	4	5		4 and 5	3	2 and 1	
Improving Public Safety, senses of well-being	A.1	More patrol and control of parks and library area to ensure safe access for families and kids	0%	0%	35%	24%	41%		65%	35%	0%	R
	A.2	Outreach and education to homeless people to encourage good conduct (obey laws, respect other's property) and environmental stewardship in order to improve community sense of safety, reduce impacts to the environment and improve public health.	0%	6%	18%	29%	47%		76%	18%	6%	R
	A.3	Create a program where homeless are hired daily to help clean the community	0%	0%	12%	29%	59%		88%	12%	0%	C
	A.4	Increase police patrols in vicinity/around the times of church meal programs and other areas where homeless individuals congregate	6%	6%	35%	29%	24%		53%	35%	12%	
	A.5	Ensure police have information to provide service and shelter referrals to homeless individuals	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%		100%	0%	0%	C
Expand emergency shelter	B.1	Partner with agencies (businesses, governments, churches, etc.) that have parking lots to make them available for overnight for "safe parking" that is time limited, policed, kept clean and has a restroom facility	6%	0%	24%	35%	35%		71%	24%	6%	R
	B.2	Find a location to host a Tent City in Auburn, to offer community to homeless. Provide showers and laundry facilities	24%	12%	24%	24%	18%		41%	24%	35%	
	B.3	Provide short-term Shelter Housing in the City by partnering with - motels willing to reduce price with open rooms, and with Landlords with unrented apartments	6%	6%	12%	29%	47%		76%	12%	12%	R
	B.4	Provide additional outdoor restroom facilities at existing available parking lots at businesses like gas stations	6%	6%	12%	53%	24%		76%	12%	12%	R

Summary of Recommendations			% of Each Rating						Combined Rating			Results
	B.5	Open additional Shelter in City –more than just the existing winter shelter for cold nights	0%	0%	12%	24%	65%		88%	12%	0%	C
	B.6	Provide transitional housing in immediate Auburn area	0%	6%	18%	41%	35%		76%	18%	6%	R
	B.7	City should provide support for the siting and construction of the proposed Arcadia House project (transitional housing and shelter, with services, for young adults)	0%	0%	29%	29%	41%		71%	29%	0%	R
	B.8	Expand shelter services to youth under the age of 18	0%	0%	24%	6%	71%		76%	24%	0%	R
	B.9	utilize school and other public facilities as overnight shelters for the currently underserved groups, including families with children	12%	6%	24%	29%	29%		59%	24%	18%	
	B.10	Increase the supply of low-barrier shelter beds in the City (currently there are no shelter beds, excepting the winter shelter open during the extreme weather)	6%	0%	6%	29%	59%		88%	6%	6%	C
Expanding Services	C.1	Hygiene center / Day center with storage, showers, laundry and access to resources. Explore siting in an existing vacant building	6%	0%	0%	24%	71%		94%	0%	6%	C
	C.2	Engage owners of private but vacant buildings in City to host locations for needed services	6%	0%	6%	47%	41%		88%	6%	6%	C
	C.3	Coordinate meal programs for each day of the week to ensure homeless have a hot meal, a place for companionship, and safety each and every day. (Currently 5 of 7 days of the week are covered by such programs in Auburn.) Promote best practices in the operation of these programs to mitigate impacts on neighboring properties/residents.	6%	0%	12%	24%	59%		82%	12%	6%	C
	C.4	Expand Health Care services available for homeless - Basic and beyond with follow-up and case management	6%	0%	6%	35%	53%		88%	6%	6%	C
	C.5	Expand programs, facilities and services available to address behavioral health issues of homeless (Behavioral health = substance abuse, addiction, mental health).	0%	0%	6%	24%	71%		94%	6%	0%	C

Summary of Recommendations			% of Each Rating						Combined Rating			Results
C.6	Work with other cities and agencies to create Diversion/Crisis solution centers in South King County.		6%	0%	12%	24%	59%		82%	12%	6%	C
C.7	Expanded wrap-around services for homeless that will assist them in addressing their barriers to stable housing.		6%	0%	12%	24%	59%		82%	12%	6%	C
C.8	Enhance collaboration and communication between service agencies to better ensure a "warm handoff" of individuals from agency to agency -- so people don't get lost in the system. Include city in these efforts.		0%	0%	12%	24%	65%		88%	12%	0%	C
C.9	Periodically update brochure providing information about resources in the community (city, professional, nonprofit, etc.) available to help homeless. (At least annual updates)		0%	0%	29%	18%	53%		71%	29%	0%	R
C.10	Transportation – provide a free bus for Valley floor area, with service centralized around Auburn to help get from one end to the other		6%	12%	35%	24%	24%		47%	35%	18%	
C.11	Expand number of bus passes available for homeless individuals.		6%	0%	18%	29%	47%		76%	18%	6%	R
C.12	Find a private laundromat willing to be open for free for homeless residents one day a week (City of Burien project)		0%	0%	12%	29%	59%		88%	12%	0%	C
C.13	Create Storage facilities for homeless individuals to place their belongings: secure, accessible and locked		6%	6%	41%	18%	29%		47%	41%	12%	
C.14	Provide short-term transitional housing for those coming out of jail or foster care to help transition people to longer term housing and employment		6%	0%	12%	35%	47%		82%	12%	6%	C
C.15	Provide a central place well known in the community where homeless can come and be connected to resources.		6%	0%	6%	24%	65%		88%	6%	6%	C

Summary of Recommendations			% of Each Rating						Combined Rating			Results
Expand Permanent house (and related service capacity)	D.1	Expand the supply of permanent "Housing First" low barrier housing in and around Auburn.	0%	6%	18%	29%	47%		76%	18%	6%	R
	D.2	Support efforts of South King County (SKC) regional planning/homelessness advisory group in their efforts to: (1) Assess what housing and services currently exist and are currently available to homeless populations; (2) Determine gap between need and available resources; and (3) Coordinate where and housing will be located. Each city should agree to locate specific housing and service program in their locality, spreading resources across SKC.	6%	0%	24%	24%	47%		71%	24%	6%	R
	D.3	Provide housing for everyone who would like it-- not temporary housing-- a permanent place to call home.	12%	6%	24%	18%	41%		59%	24%	18%	
	D.4	Build new low-income/subsidized housing located close to resources and services.	6%	0%	29%	29%	35%		65%	29%	6%	R
	D.5	Organize shared housing placement and services. Make list or audit of all existing, available or potentially available housing that could be used to house the homeless.	6%	0%	29%	18%	47%		65%	29%	6%	R
	D. 6	Provide additional subsidized housing for Single adults w/o disabilities, children, or Veteran status. Currently, there are very limited resources for this population.	6%	12%	0%	35%	47%		82%	0%	18%	C
	D.7	Build communal / micro-housing: i.e. dormitory-like apartment, private rooms for sleeping, individuals or couples with shared kitchen and living rooms. 4-6 people to a pod.	6%	12%	12%	41%	29%		71%	12%	18%	R
	D.8	Create a fund to help offset costs of rent or purchase of housing for qualified homeless	6%	6%	29%	35%	24%		59%	29%	12%	
	D.9	Landlord assistance for damages as well as rent guarantee / support countywide Landlord Liaison Program	6%	6%	6%	41%	41%		82%	6%	12%	C

Summary of Recommendations			% of Each Rating						Combined Rating			Results
Improving public understanding, ability to assist	E.1	Implement a program to help educate residents about homelessness— why people become homeless, the limits of police action, the rights of the homeless, and how the Police, other City Departments, and service providers are currently responding on the issue. Tactics could include a citizen's academy, town halls, web-postings, news articles, etc. Being homeless doesn't make you less of a person but rather just person who may need a hand up.	0%	0%	19%	19%	63%		81%	19%	0%	C
	E.2	Encourage residents to reach out to relatives, friends of the homeless to help identify underlying reason for homelessness and possibly direct help to the individual.	6%	18%	24%	0%	35%		35%	24%	24%	
	E.3	Encourage ministers to include discussion in parish sermons during worship services to help parishioners with understanding and helping the homeless	0%	6%	18%	18%	53%		71%	18%	6%	R
	E.4	Continue to expand city's involvement with county, state and feds to better support money and awareness of homelessness in South King County as a whole.	0%	0%	18%	18%	65%		82%	18%	0%	C
	E.5	Clarify availability of resources to help homeless on single website	0%	0%	29%	0%	71%		71%	29%	0%	R
	E.6	Fundraiser to build public awareness of issues, barriers, provide public opportunity to provide input. Use proceeds to fund programs	0%	0%	41%	6%	47%		53%	41%	0%	
Advocacy	F.1	Find funding to provide more services.	0%	0%	18%	24%	59%		82%	18%	0%	C
	F.2	Advocate for more state funding for all types of behavioral health services-- mental health, substance abuse, detox beds, etc.	0%	0%	6%	18%	76%		94%	6%	0%	C
	F.3	Advocate for funding for individuals without state insurance/on disability to access mental health and substance abuse treatment	6%	0%	6%	18%	71%		88%	6%	6%	C

Summary of Recommendations			% of Each Rating					Combined Rating			Results
	F.4	Encourage the state legislature to act next session to authorize a "Medicaid Supportive Housing Services Benefit" that will allow those providing services to residents in permanent supportive housing to bill more of the costs of those services to Medicaid rather than have the service providers absorb these costs.	0%	0%	24%	12%	65%	76%	24%	0%	R
	F.5	Provide training or tools to homeless individuals to share their story during legislative session.	6%	0%	47%	12%	35%	47%	47%	6%	
	F.6	Advocate to require utilities to expand subsidy for low income customers.	0%	0%	12%	35%	53%	88%	12%	0%	C
	F.7	Advocate for expanded funding available to transporting homeless students.	0%	0%	18%	24%	59%	82%	18%	0%	C
	F.8	Advocate for improved bus service within Auburn and between South King County cities to increase ease of access by the homeless to needed services.	6%	6%	6%	24%	59%	82%	6%	12%	C
Other	G.1	The City should undertake a short term concerted effort to gather more accurate data on the number of homeless individuals in Auburn. Strategies could include using yourgov app, first responders document all contacts, include photo.	0%	12%	24%	29%	35%	65%	24%	12%	R
	G.2	City should continue to strengthen partnerships with service providers whose programs serve homeless individuals	0%	0%	18%	12%	71%	82%	18%	0%	C
	G.3	Create best practice training for all systems. Employees trained together to build connections between agencies.	0%	0%	12%	41%	47%	88%	12%	0%	C

27 consensus items (80%+ approval)

19 recommendation items (60-79% approval)

10 items not recommended

Auburn Mayor's Homelessness Task Force

Task Force Report

April 2016

Introduction

The Auburn Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness was created by Mayor Nancy Backus in November 2015. The Mayor's action came after concern was expressed by many local business owners and residents about visible street homelessness in the City. A "blog-spot" on the City's Website on the topic of homelessness received a record number of posts over much of 2015, more than any other subject on the "Talk Auburn" blog.

At the initial Task Force meeting, Mayor Backus charged the group with the following mission:

> *The Task Force will seek to better understand the scope and causes of homelessness in Auburn, the systems in place to address homelessness, and will consider the range of concerns and ideas identified by the community. The Task force will identify and recommend a set of short-term and longer-term actions that our community can undertake to address these issues.*

This report presents our recommendations.

Task Force Members and Process

The Task Force consists of seventeen (17) members, representing a diversity of resident, business, service providers and faith community interests in Auburn. Three resident members were selected after soliciting interest from the entire community. The members of the Task Force and our affiliations are identified at **Attachment A.** Mayor Backus selected Denise Daniels and Carla Hopkins to serve as co-chairs of the Task Force.

The Task Force met seven times, from November 17, 2015 through April ___, 2016. We were supported by a team of City staff from various departments, as well as representatives from the King County Housing Authority and the Valley Regional Fire Authority. The support team members sat at the table with us and engaged in the dialogue at each meeting. A full list of the support team members is presented at **Attachment B**. In addition to bringing the staff support team to our table, the City also secured an independent facilitator to help shape our work plan and facilitate our meetings.

Our meetings were open to the public and all the agendas and materials reviewed at our meetings were posted on the City's website, as were summaries of our meetings. We took brief oral comments at our meetings, and encouraged written comments to be submitted from members of the public attending our meetings, as well as on the City's website. All comments submitted were transcribed and provided to us.

At the beginning of our deliberations, we adopted a charter to guide our decision making process. We then spent most of our first four meetings learning about homelessness in Auburn.

We began by learning what City staff have heard from local residents and business owners about the impacts of homelessness on their neighborhoods and places of business. Then we moved to hear more about the issue of homelessness regionally as well as locally: The Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness presented information describing how homelessness is prevalent across King County. We reviewed the "One Night Count" data on the numbers of homeless, and information on the causes of homelessness. "All Home," the agency managing the County's overall strategies to address homelessness, described for us how governments and service providers are responding to this challenge. As individual task force members, we shared with each other our own perceptions as to the causes of, and concerns associated with, homelessness in our community.

After that, we heard presentations from several City departments—Police, Community Services, Parks, Planning and Development -- who deal daily with individuals experiencing homelessness in our City. All the presenter noted that the homeless population—particularly single adults-- is increasingly visible and growing, and that there is a lack of shelters and other safe places for homeless individuals to go in Auburn.   Assistant Police Chief William Pierson stressed for us that while the Police Department is committed to protecting the safety of the community, being homeless in and of itself is not a crime, and the City cannot arrest its way out of this challenge. The Parks Department and Community Development Departments spoke to the challenges of addressing encampments and related environmental impacts on public property. The Community Services Department noted the lack of services available to meet the needs of the homeless—particularly, the lack of hygiene and laundry facilities.

Helpful information was also provided by staff from other government agencies. Valley Regional Fire Authority staff also presented information to us, noting they are seeing an increase in the homeless population, particularly among younger people—teens and those in their early 20s. Staff from the Auburn School District spoke to us regarding the challenges of serving homeless students and the federal McKinney Vento law requirements around this. Staff from the Auburn Library shared with us information us about their programs and how they treat visitors to their facilities, including homeless individuals. Staff from the King County Housing Authority shared with us an overview of that agency's programs and services, which include several subsidized and workforce housing developments in Auburn.

The Director of the King County Dept. of Community and Human Services also spoke with us, noting that in the homelessness crisis, what we are experiencing is the failure of several systems over the last several decades: lack of access to mental health care treatment and in-patient beds; insufficient support for persons with development disabilities; and rapidly growing housing costs. She shared with us reviewed maps showing prevalence of a series of demographic markers around poverty, health indicators, and factors placing people at risk of homelessness, all of which showed a heavy concentration of these challenges in South King County.

Between Task Force meetings, we had the opportunity to visit sites where services for the homeless are now provided in the City and nearby. Site visit locations included:

- Auburn Youth Resources/Arcadia House
- First United Methodist Church (free meal site)
- Multi-Service Center (shelter for families, located in Kent)
- Auburn Food Bank
- Valley Cities Landing and Phoenix Rising

We wanted to ensure that we heard the perspectives of homeless individuals in our deliberations. To accomplish this, in addition taking public comment at the meetings (where we heard from homeless individuals as well as residents and service providers), four interviews were conducted with different homeless people in the City, through the efforts of our Co-Chair, Carla Hopkins, and City staffer Erica Azcueta. Transcripts of these conversations were provided to us.

City staff kept a running list of all our information requests and we received responses to all these questions.

We spent our last three meetings developing a problem statement, our definition of success, criteria for our recommendations, a framework for recommendations, and developing a list of potential recommendations. We identified 56 different potential recommendations (presented in Attachment B), and sorted them within categories of our adopted framework (described below).

Our 56 ideas for recommendations were placed on a ballot and each Task Force member was asked to rate each idea from 1 to 5, with 5 being "strongly support" and 1 being "strongly oppose." Results were tabulated and presented at our seventh and last Task Force meeting. In discussion at that last meeting, some items were re-voted on. The final results of that voting and deliberation are included at **Attachment C**.

Per our charter, items supported by at least 80% of the Task Force members voting were considered to be **"consensus"** items; items supported by at least 60% but less than 80% were considered to be **"recommended"** items. These "consensus" and "recommendation" items together constitute our recommendations; they are presented below at **Table 1**.

Problem Statement

Auburn residents, business owners, nonprofit service organizations, the faith community, and those in City Hall, have all observed an increase in the number of homeless individuals in the City over the past few years. Their presence is seen and felt in downtown Auburn, the Library, City parks and open spaces, in other commercial areas of town and in neighborhoods.

The January 2016 One Night Count of the homeless reported 110 homeless individuals in Auburn. This was a decline compared to the 132 people counted in 2015, but service providers attribute this to heavy rains flooding out traditional encampment sites along the Green River.

And, of significant concern, in 2016 the South King County Region[1] saw a 53% increase in the homeless count compared to 2015. Countywide, there was a 19% increase in the number of homeless individuals reported in the One Night Count in January 2016 as compared to January 2015,

The City's public works department reports a constant stream of homeless encampments in City green spaces. "Unwanted person" calls have become the second highest call category for the City Police Department, second only to traffic issues. The Valley Regional Fire Authority reports a growing increase in the number of visible homeless in the City, particularly young adults.

The homelessness in our City are people of all ages. The Auburn School District reports it had 265 students identified as homeless in the 2014-2015 school year—a 26% increase over the 2013-14 school year. And the 2013-14 school year had 17% more homeless students than the 2012-2013 school year.

A growing number of families in Auburn are at risk of homelessness. Indicators of this trend are found in data about poverty levels, comparing income to rent and looking at the growing use of the Auburn Food Bank and the number of families seeking subsidized housing:

- Over 10% of families in Auburn were below the federal poverty line in the 2010 census.[2]
- Over 41% of Auburn households pay more than 30% of their income for housing.[2]
- 4,495 families are registered with the Auburn Food Bank this year – some 118,000 people were served last year, up to 145 people a night at weekly community meals. [3]
- 35-50 individuals per night are staying at the cold weather shelter operated by the Auburn Food Bank.[3]
- Rental costs in South King County have increased 27% since 2010. A person earning minimum wage, or on TANF (welfare), or receiving social security disability income cannot afford an average one bedroom apartment in South King County.[4]
- In Auburn last year, 871 families applied for public housing assistance – seeking to get on the King County Housing Authority Section 8 Voucher waiting list. Only 98 of those applicants were fortunate enough to get a slot on the waiting list—and they can expect to wait as 5 years for space in public housing to open up.[5]

At the same time, the City hears growing frustration from businesses and homeowners. They ask what is being done to address the number of homeless individuals panhandling, or sleeping

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[1] Of that increase, 91% can be attributed to areas counted last year, most of which have been counted for many years. The South King County Region consists of areas in: Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Auburn, and Southwest King County (select areas of Burien, Des Moines, SeaTac, Tukwila, and White Center). Source for One Night Count data: Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness.

[2] Source: All Home.
[3] Source: Auburn Food Bank.
[4] Source: Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness, reporting 2015 information from Dupre & Scott Apartment Advisors
[5] Source: King County Housing Authority.

in doorways, or loitering in commercial areas. There is a high degree of community concern about homelessness, as evidenced by the number of comments on the City's web-blog on homelessness which has received more comments than any other City blog. Most, but not all, of the input from the community expresses support for helping the homeless in our community find the services and shelter they need. Over half of the comments received online stated there is significant need for more supportive services including emergency shelters, mental health and substance abuse services and policy or system changes.

And, while the fear and frustration registered through public comments is growing, we are also clear that the City cannot arrest its way out of homelessness. Being homeless is not a crime. And, cycling individuals through short jail stays on trespassing or public nuisance charges only to have them released back in to the community doesn't address the underlying causes of homelessness or solve the problem.

What we are seeing in Auburn is not unique. Across King County, Washington state, and nationally, we are seeing the suburbanization of poverty, as the poor are priced out of housing in urban centers.   In Washington State, decades of underinvestment in mental health care, developmental disabilities services, and substance abuse treatment are translating into increasing homelessness. In King County we combine those systemic failures with an alarming increase in the cost of housing and the problem is further exacerbated.

The Task Force understands that the following conditions are being experienced and observed in the City, by residents and business owners:

- Problem behaviors of homeless individuals, including loitering, trespassing in private buildings to use restrooms, get clean and sleep
- Property damage including breaking of locks on buildings to gain access to private buildings, or dumpsters
- Increasing number of visible homeless individuals throughout our City, particularly of younger individuals
- Customers and employees of local businesses being frightened of or confronted by homeless individuals
- Residents wanting the City to "fix" the problem of homelessness
- Residents afraid to use the library due to groups of homeless adults loitering in the entryways and in the Library
- Residents afraid to visit public parks, trails and open space due to groups of apparently homeless individuals living or loitering in these areas
- Trash, debris, belongings, drug paraphernalia left behind by the homeless
- Increasing numbers of homeless encampments in open space within the City
- Mental illness and substance abuse issues suffered by the homeless
- Significant increases in the cost of housing
- Growth in poverty

As a result of these issues and conditions, community concerns include:

- Auburn becoming less safe and less attractive for residents, workers, and visitors

- Negative community views about the homeless, a lack of public understanding and tolerance for the homeless
- Concern for the safety of the homeless in the City and concern about their human suffering
- A lack of services and housing available for the homeless – either in Auburn or in nearby cities

Constraints and obstacles to addressing these concerns and issues include:

- **Lack of Places for Homeless Individuals to Be**
  - No shelter for youth under 18 anywhere in South King County.
  - One shelter for young adults (ages 18-24) in all of South County, here in Auburn (Auburn Youth Resources).
  - Other than a limited winter shelter in severe weather conditions, there are no emergency shelter beds to house homeless adults in Auburn.
  - There are very few transitional shelter beds in the City.
  - Lack of approved places for the homeless to stay anywhere in the City (e.g. parking lots or "tent cities")
  - Lack of day centers where homeless individuals can be during the day, other than limited hours of service in a facility for youth provided by Auburn Youth Resources
  - No hygiene center anywhere in the City where homeless individuals can get clean, or take care of basic bodily functions
  - Rents increasing far faster than incomes, and already beyond the reach of those at the bottom of the income scale.
  - Insufficient public housing and shelter capacity to meet the needs of the population (housed and unhoused)
  - Lack of housing with supportive services to meet the needs of the homeless
  - Lack of sites where new homeless facilities can locate, and it is unclear whether there is public support for siting.

- **Difficult for the Homeless to Help Themselves**
  - Limited family and social networks
  - Lack of transportation to get to services and jobs
  - Lack of knowledge on the part of both the homeless and the public about resources available to assist the homeless
  - Lack of service capacity, including medical care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, job training
  - Lack of enough outreach services to connect homeless to services they need
  - Lack of places for the homeless to securely store their belongings

- **Hard for Supportive Agencies to Help Homeless Families and Individuals**
  - Lack of public understanding of the complexity of homelessness
  - Some homeless opt out of staying in shelters or using services available to them
  - Growing poverty in the region, increasingly generational poverty

- Growing housing costs place more at risk of homelessness, and make it more expensive to find new housing for the homeless
- Lack of adequate resources to address the challenges

What does success look like?

The challenge of homelessness in Auburn is growing. The Task Force believes there is an urgent need for action. But what does success look like? Here are some of the ways we think our community should define success in addressing homelessness:

- **For the homeless:**
  - More shelter beds in our community.
  - A place in our city where the homeless can care for their personal needs—get clean, do laundry.
  - Greater access to "Housing First" resources—safe housing with wrap-around services, that people can live in without abandoning their pets, or without the expectation that they will be addiction-free overnight.
  - Greater access to health services and better health outcomes, including but not limited to greater access to substance abuse treatment
  - Greater access to transportation
  - Ultimately, everyone who wants a home or shelter can have one.
  - Greater visibility of services available to assist homeless individuals.

- **For our community:**
  - Greater perceived and actual feeling of safety.
  - A cleaner city, with less debris left behind by the homeless, and no unauthorized encampments
  - Expanded engagement of the business community and of the entire community in constructively addressing homelessness
  - Greater understanding of the complexity of homelessness and how we can each help to meet this challenge
  - Boarder awareness that homelessness and crime are not synonymous.
  - An acknowledgement that the homeless are part of our community.
  - More landlords open to renting to individuals and families with Section 8 housing certificates.

- **For our public and nonprofit service providers:**
  - Stronger connections between service providers across South King County
  - A seamless system that works to help the homeless and those at risk of homelessness—understanding the barriers to homeless and efficiently and quickly connecting people with resources.
  - A reduction in emergency room visits by the homeless
  - Increased resources

- o Police, fire/emergency medical and public works resources are able to apply more of their resources to their core missions.
- o Collaborative engagement in securing grants

We will not end homelessness. But there is much we can and should do to address this challenge in our City. One size does not fit all, in terms of solutions. While there are some actions we can take that will result in immediate improvement, others will take much longer. We need to think strategically, and be committed to sustaining our efforts over the long haul.

Criteria and Framework for Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force agreed that recommendations would be included for consideration by the Task Force if they meet _all these criteria_:

- **Actionable** – Recommendation is feasible to implement as a community. Stakeholders needed are part of Auburn/South King County community and have means to take action necessary to accomplish the change sought. Financial feasibility should be included as a consideration (without setting a specific <u>dollar</u> threshold for what is feasible).

- **Positive Community Impact** – It is reasonable to expect that implementation of the recommendation will result in overall positive community impact, and respond to the community's concerns.

- **Consistent with federal law** – (But recommendations could include advocating for changes in state law and funding)

- **Sustainable**—phased roll-outs of solutions may be needed, but sustained action is required.

We approved a "framework" for recommendations that sorted ideas into seven categories:

- A. Improving public safety, sense of wellbeing
- B. Expand emergency shelter options
- C. Expand services
- D. Expand permanent housing (& related service capacity)
- E. Improve public understanding, ability to assist
- F. Advocacy
- G. Other

Staff provided us with an initial assessment for each ideas in terms of (1) who would be the likely "lead" to implement the action, (2) who would be an appropriate "partner" working in support of the item, (3) roughly, how much would it cost to implement the item, and (4) how

long would it take to implement. This information was included on the ballot for our consideration when voting, and is presented in **Attachment C** – the final ballot results.

Our Recommendations

After voting and final deliberation, we are recommending ＿＿ items. ＿＿ of these are **consensus** items, receiving support of at least 80% of Task Force Members voting; another ＿＿＿ are **recommendation** items" supported by 60-798% of the Task Force Members voting.

Priority items?

The full slate of recommendations, together with the rationale for each, is presented at **Table 1.**

Table 1: Matrix of Task Force Recommendations

KEY:			
Task Force Rating: R = Recommendation Item (60-79% support) C = Consensus Item (80%+ support)	**Estimated Cost** *$ = <$25K* *$$= $25-50K* *$$$= $50-100K* *$$$$ = $100 – 500K* *$$$$$ = > $500K*	**Timeframe to Implement** *ST = Short Term -- 1-2yrs.* *NT = Near Term -- 2-5 yrs.* *LT = Long Term -- > 5 yrs.*	**Stakeholder Groups That Should Participate in Implementation** **L = Lead** **P = Other partner needed**

Item #	Description	Task Force Rating	Est. Cost	Time-frame to Impl.	Additional Notes/Comments	Stakeholder Groups That Should Participate in Implementation — L = Lead P = Other partner needed								
						City	Business Community	Residents	Faith Community	Nonprofit Service /Shelter Providers	Low Income Housing Providers	Other Cities, local gov't agencies, County	Homeless Individuals	
Category A: A. Improving public safety, sense of wellbeing														
1														
2														
Category B: Expand emergency shelter options														
3														

Item #	Description	Task Force Rating	Est. Cost	Time-frame to Impl.	Additional Notes/Comments	Stakeholder Groups That Should Participate in Implementation L = Lead P = Other partner needed							
						City	Business Community	Residents	Faith Community	Nonprofit Service /Shelter Providers	Low Income Housing Providers	Other Cities, local gov't agencies, County	Homeless Individuals
4													
Category C: Expand services													
Category D: Expand permanent housing (& related service capacity)													
Category E: Improve public understanding, ability to assist													

Item #	Description	Task Force Rating	Est. Cost	Time-frame to Impl.	Additional Notes/Comments	Stakeholder Groups That Should Participate in Implementation L = Lead P = Other partner needed							
						City	Business Community	Residents	Faith Community	Nonprofit Service /Shelter Providers	Low Income Housing Providers	Other Cities, local gov't agencies, County	Homeless Individuals
Category F: Advocacy													
Category G: Other													

Conclusion [TBD]

Addressing homelessness in our community is an important quality of life issue residents, business owners and visitors to our City. It is also a matter of basic compassion to try to help those experiencing homelessness in our community. We cannot wait to address this challenge, but we know that many of the recommendations we pose are not easy or quick to implement. Yet we believe there are many recommendations in our report on which we can make significant progress on in a short period of time, and we hope that it will be a priority for our community to do so.

Implementing our recommendations will require that all parts of our community come together. It is not simply a matter of asking the Police or others at City Hall to "do more." Success requires compassion, informed action, as well as a continued commitment to public safety. Additional resources are needed if we are going to make significant progress—and while some will need to come from the City, financial support from the County, state, other cities, and the federal government are all needed.

We wish to thank the Mayor for her leadership in convening this Task Force. We also thank the several members of our support team for their assistance throughout this process, as well as the many speakers who gave their time and experience to help inform our deliberations.

Because of our commitment to this issue, we have asked the Mayor to reconvene this Task Force in six months to hear about progress in implementing our recommendations, and she has kindly agreed to this request. Because we know that our recommendations cannot be accomplished all at once, and many will take longer than even a year or two, our final recommendation is the creation of a multi-agency implementation team in Auburn to help create a work plan around the Task Force recommendations -- prioritizing among them, developing specific action plan, and then taking action. We see this as a City-led effort, in partnership with many others. We encourage the Mayor to look to the Task Force membership for some of the participation on the implementation team.

….

Attachments:

A: List of Task Force Members

B: List of Support Team Members

C: Final Ballot Results

Attachment A: Members of the Auburn Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness

Community Sector	NAME/Title/Affiliation	
Tribal Nation	**Jeremy James** Council Member Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	
Schools	**Denise Daniels (Co-Chair)** Family Engagement Coordinator Auburn School District	
	Dennis Grad McKinney Vento Liaison	
Veterans	**Josh Wheeldon**[6] Auburn Resident, veteran's programs representative	
Businesses[7]	**Julia Jordan** President & CEO Auburn Chamber of Commerce	
	Ron Roberts Owner Gosanko Chocolate	
Nonprofit providers	**Debbie Christian** Executive Director Auburn Food Bank	***Alternate: Pam Johnson*** *Auburn Food Bank*
	Sarah Christensen Director of Residential and Homeless Services Auburn Youth Resources	***Alternate: Sylvia Fuerstenberg*** *Executive Director* *Auburn Youth Resources*
	Cara Brinkley PATH Outreach Case Manager Sound Mental Health	
	Alexander Foster Program Therapist Valley Cities	
Les Gove Campus	**Carla Hopkins (Co-Chair)** King County Library System Algona- Pacific/Auburn/Muckleshoot Libraries	***Alternate: Jonna Chissus*** *Operations Manager* *KCLS Auburn Library*
Faith Community	**Laura Kniss** Church Program Volunteer Messiah Lutheran	
Medical	**Diane Cimino-Kelly** Director, South King County Personal Health Partner Program MultiCare Emergency Department	***Alternate: Valerie Chontofalsky*** *Social Worker* *MultiCare*
	Virginia Gannon Executive Director Christ Community Clinic	
	Alexis Schleiss Behavioral Health Care Coordinator HealthPoint	***Alternate: Nancy LaVielle*** *Auburn Health Center* *Manager, HealthPoint*
Auburn Residents	**Kathie Blaschke**	

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[6] Mr. Wheeldon resigned mid-way through the process due to a change in jobs making his continued participation impracticable.

[7] Two additional business members were recruited to participate in the Task Force but neither attended more than one meeting, so they were dropped from the membership roster.

	Ted Leonard
	Leticia Figueroa

Attachment B: Task Force Support Team

NAME	Title/Agency
Erica Azcueta	Human Services Coordinator Community Services City of Auburn
Dana Hinman	Director of Administration City of Auburn
Tami Kapule	Code Compliance Officer Planning and Development City of Auburn
Jamie Kelly	Parks Planning and Development Manager Parks and Recreation City of Auburn
Bill Pierson	Assistant Chief of Police City of Auburn
Eric Robertson	Administrator Valley Regional Fire Authority
Kristin Winkel	Director of Leased Housing Programs King County Housing Authority
Karen Reed	Facilitator Karen Reed Consulting LLC

Attachment C: [the final ballot, with all voting results]

Auburn Mayor's Homelessness Task Force

DRAFT Communications Roll-out Plan

Goal: Confirm actions to be taken in order to broadly disseminate the Task Force recommendations within the community, to build understanding of, and support for, the Task Force recommendations.

Key Messages:

1. The problem of homelessness in Auburn is serious. It creates concern for the economic vitality of the City, public safety as well as for the wellbeing of homeless individuals.
2. The Mayor has created this Task Force and sought their recommendations.
3. The Task Force process has engaged business owners, residents, the faith community, nonprofit service agencies operating in Auburn, the Valley Regional Fire Authority, King County Housing Authority and the City.
4. The Task Force is forwarding ___ recommendations to the City and the Auburn community. These recommendations call for action not only by the City, but also by businesses, residents, service providers, the state, and other south county cities.
5. All in our community have a role in improving the situation.
6. The situation won't be fixed in a day, or a year, but substantial progress can and should be made over the next one to five years.
7. Progress will require additional resources—not just from the City.
8. A small subcommittee of stakeholders with interest/background in public safety and human services should be created and charged with developing an implementation plan for the Task Force's recommendations, with support from City Staff.
9. The Task Force seeks to be reconvened in six months to hear a progress report on implementing our recommendations.

Audiences / Communication Strategies/Timing:

	Audience	Strategy	Timing
1	City Council	PPT presentation Co-Chairs supported by E. Azcueta, W. Pierson, etc. C. *Issue press release/public notification prior to this session (after packets go to Council)*	
2.	All Home	PPT presentation by steering committee, supported by C. Kelly	
3.	Auburn Chamber of Commerce		
4.	Auburn Rotary		
5.	Auburn Lions Club		
6.	Auburn Kiwanis groups		

	Audience	Strategy	Timing
7.	Auburn Reporter		
8.	Faith Communities		
9.	South County City Managers		
10.	South County Meeting on "Suburbanization of poverty"		Late May, hosted by Auburn
11.	Residents & business owners who sent in comments or presented information to Task Force	Send link of final report to these individuals	
12.	Auburn community	Post link to report on Website at Task Force Link and on "Auburn Talks" Offer to meet with Homeowners Associations	
13.			
14.			
15.			