



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15323

Proposed No. 2019-0013.1

Sponsors Kohl-Welles

1 A MOTION accepting a report certifying that at least three
2 hundred seventeen homeless senior veterans have obtained
3 housing pursuant to the methodology described in the
4 Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition
5 Plan adopted in Ordinance 18638.

6 WHEREAS, on July 20, 2017, the metropolitan King County council adopted
7 Ordinance 18555, placing a six-year veterans, seniors and human services levy on the
8 general election ballot, and Ordinance 18555 was signed by the executive on July 21,
9 2017. King County voters approved the levy in November 2017 with more than sixty-
10 eight percent of the vote, and

11 WHEREAS, Ordinance 18555 requires that one third of levy proceeds be used to
12 plan, provide, administer and evaluate a wide range of regional health and human
13 services and capital facilities for seniors and their caregivers and to promote healthy
14 aging in King County, and

15 WHEREAS, Ordinance 18555 requires that until either (a) seventy-five percent of
16 the number of those seniors, who were also veterans or military servicemembers in King
17 County and who as of the enactment date of Ordinance 18555 were homeless, obtain
18 housing or (b) a total of twenty-four million dollars from the levy proceeds, except those
19 levy proceeds described in Ordinance 18555, Section 4.B.1., or from other funds

20 administered by King County or both are spent to house seniors who are also veterans or
21 military servicemembers in King County, whichever comes first, at least fifty percent of
22 the levy proceeds dedicated for seniors shall be used to fund capital facilities and regional
23 health and human services for seniors who are also veterans or military servicemembers
24 and their respective caregivers and families, and

25 WHEREAS, Ordinance 18555, Section 7.A. and B., required the executive to
26 develop and transmit for council review and adoption by ordinance a transition plan and
27 an implementation plan for the veterans, seniors and human services levy, and

28 WHEREAS, Ordinance 18555, required that the Veterans, Seniors and Human
29 Services Levy Transition Plan include a methodology to determine the number of seniors
30 who were also veterans or military servicemembers and who were homeless as of the date
31 of enactment of Ordinance 18555 and to track the number of veterans and military
32 servicemembers who obtain housing over the term of the levy and the plan to implement
33 that methodology and tracking, and

34 WHEREAS, in accordance with Ordinance 18555, the executive transmitted for
35 council review and approval the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition
36 Plan to govern the expenditure of veterans, seniors and human services levy proceeds in
37 2018 and that transition plan establishes the definitions, methodology, and accountability
38 measures required under Ordinance 18555, Section 7.A., including those definitions and
39 methodologies related to tracking the number of seniors who are also veterans or military
40 servicemembers who obtain housing, and

41 WHEREAS, on December 13, 2017, the King County council adopted Ordinance
42 18638, adopting the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan, and

43 Ordinance 18638 was signed by the executive on December 21, 2017, and

44 WHEREAS, Ordinance 18555, required that the Veterans, Seniors and Human
45 Services Levy Implementation Plan include the methodology of how the number of
46 seniors, who are also veterans or military servicemembers and who were homeless as of
47 the date of enactment of Ordinance 18555 was determined and the methodology to track
48 the number of veterans and military servicemembers who obtain housing over the term of
49 the veterans, seniors and human services levy as well as provide for the implementation
50 of the tracking and refinement from the definition and methodology included in the
51 Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan, and

52 WHEREAS, in accordance with Ordinance 18555, the executive transmitted to
53 the council for review and approval the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy
54 Implementation Plan to govern the expenditure of veterans, seniors and human services
55 levy proceeds from 2019 through 2023 and that implementation plan establishes the
56 definitions, methodology, and accountability measures required under Ordinance 18555,
57 Section 7.B., including those definitions and methodologies related to tracking the
58 number of seniors who are also veterans or military servicemembers who obtain housing,
59 and

60 WHEREAS, on July 16, 2018, the King County council adopted Ordinance
61 18768, adopting the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan,
62 and Ordinance 18768 was signed by the executive on July 25, 2018, and

63 WHEREAS, the adopted Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy
64 Implementation Plan incorporates the same methodology as the methodology adopted in
65 the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan in relation to the way the

66 department of community and human services will determine the number of seniors, who
67 are also veterans or military servicemembers who were homeless as of the date of
68 enactment of Ordinance 18555 and the methodology by which senior homeless veterans
69 are counted as having been housed, and

70 WHEREAS, based on this methodology, the department of community and
71 human services determined that, as of July 21, 2017, there were four hundred twenty-two
72 homeless veterans age fifty-five or older experiencing homelessness in King County and
73 seventy-five percent of that number is three hundred and seventeen, and

74 WHEREAS, the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan and
75 the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan describe how the
76 executive will regularly update the council on the status of how many homeless senior
77 veterans have obtained housing through the provision of quarterly update memoranda
78 until the goal of housing three hundred seventeen homeless senior veterans has been met,
79 and

80 WHEREAS, the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan and
81 the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan, in so far as it
82 incorporates all material elements of the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy
83 Transition Plan, directs that once the goal to house three hundred seventeen homeless
84 senior veterans has been met pursuant to the methodology established in these plans, the
85 executive transmit for council review and acceptance by motion a report certifying this
86 fact, and

87 WHEREAS, as of September 29, 2018, using the methodology described in the
88 Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan, the Department of

89 Community and Human Services reported through transmittal of a required quarterly
90 memorandum that three hundred sixty-seven homeless senior veterans in King County
91 had been housed, exceeding the goal to house three hundred seventeen homeless senior
92 veterans in King County;

93 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

94 The report certifying that at least three hundred and seventeen homeless, senior
95 veterans have obtained housing as required under the Veterans, Seniors and Human
96 Services Levy Transition Plan, which is Attachment A to this motion, is hereby accepted

97 in accordance with the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan
98 adopted in Ordinance 18638.
99

Motion 15323 was introduced on 1/14/2019 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/13/2019, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Red Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



Attachments: A. Report Certifying That At Least 317 Homeless Senior Veterans Have Obtained Housing as Required by the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan - December 28, 2018

Attachment A

Report Certifying that at Least 317 Homeless Senior Veterans Have Obtained Housing as Required by the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan

Department of Community and Human Services



King County

Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy

December 28, 2018

BACKGROUND

Approved by the Metropolitan King County Council on July 20, 2017 and enacted by the King County Executive on July 21, 2017, Ordinance 18555 placed the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) ballot measure on the November 2017 ballot. King County voters approved the VSHSL ballot measure ordinance with 68.59 percent support, the proceeds of which would be invested in a range of regional health and human services and capital facilities for veterans and military service members and their respective families, seniors and their caregivers, and vulnerable populations.

Requirement to House Homeless Senior Veterans

Ordinance 18555, Section 4.B.2, requires that at least half of the VSHSL's proceeds dedicated to plan, provide, administer and evaluate a range of regional health and human services and capital facilities for seniors and their caregivers and to promote healthy aging in King County be used to fund capital facilities and regional health and human services for seniors who are also veterans or military servicemembers and their respective families until whichever occurs first of either of the following conditions:

(a) seventy-five percent of the number of those seniors, who are also veterans or military servicemembers in King County and who as of the enactment date of this ordinance [Ordinance 18555] are homeless, obtain housing

or

(b) a total of twenty-four million dollars from the levy proceeds, except those levy proceeds described in subsection B.1 of this section, or from other funds administered by King County or both are spent to house seniors who are also veterans or military servicemembers in King County

In November 2017, the King County Council approved Ordinance 18638, adopting the VSHSL Transition Plan, which was required by Ordinance 18555. The VSHSL Transition Plan governs expenditures of VSHSL proceeds in 2018. Ordinance 18555 required the VSHSL Transition Plan to include "a methodology to determine the number of seniors who are also veterans or military servicemembers and who are homeless as of the date of enactment of this ordinance [Ordinance 18555] and to track the number of veterans and military servicemembers who obtain housing over the term of this levy and the plan to implement that methodology and tracking."¹ The Council-adopted VSHSL Transition Plan included this information.²

¹ Ordinance 18555, Section 7.A.4.

² Attachment A to Ordinance 18638, VSHSL Transition Plan, "Tracking the Number of Homeless Senior Veterans Who Obtain Housing," Pages 52-53.

In July 2018, the King County Council approved Ordinance 18768, adopting the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan, which was required by Ordinance 18555. The VSHSL Implementation Plan governs expenditures of VSHSL proceeds during the years 2019-2023; it also incorporates the VSHSL Transition Plan. As also required by Ordinance 18555, the Council-adopted VSHSL Implementation Plan incorporates accountability measures, including the “goal of housing seventy-five percent of the number of those seniors, who are also veterans or military servicemembers in King County and who as of the date this ordinance [Ordinance 18555] is enacted are homeless, obtain housing.”³ The Council-adopted VSHSL Implementation Plan also, as required by Ordinance 18555, included a “methodology of how the number of seniors, who are also veterans or military servicemembers and who were homeless as of the date of enactment of this ordinance [Ordinance 18555] was determined and the methodology to track the number of veterans and military servicemembers who obtain housing over the term of this levy.” Finally, the Council-adopted VSHSL Implementation Plan, as required by Ordinance 18555, provided for the implementation of the tracking. While Ordinance 18555 allowed for a refinement of the methodology and plan from the VSHSL Transition Plan in the VSHSL Implementation Plan, the latter adopted the same requirements and the same methodology utilized to track progress from the VSHSL Transition Plan.⁴

Report and motion accepting this report, certifying that 317 homeless senior veterans have obtained housing

The VSHSL Transition Plan requires that once the number of homeless senior veterans that are required to be housed pursuant to the methodology adopted in the VSHSL Transition Plan have obtained housing, the Executive shall transmit for Council review and acceptance by motion a report certifying that the required number of homeless senior veterans have obtained housing. Per the methodology described in the next section of this report, that number of homeless senior veterans is 317.

This report certifies that, as of the date of the last quarterly memorandum transmitted to the Council on September 29, 2018, which reported 367 homeless senior veterans in King County have obtained housing, at least 317 homeless senior veterans have obtained housing. This report is accompanied by the required motion accepting the report.

MEETING AND EXCEEDING THE GOAL TO HOUSE 317 HOMELESS SENIOR VETERANS

The following sections provide a more detailed summary of the requirement to house 317 homeless senior veterans and information on how this requirement has been met, and exceeded, as of the Executive’s last quarterly report to Council in September 2018.

³ Ordinance 18555, Section 7.B.

⁴ Attachment A to King County Ordinance 18768, VSHSL Implementation Plan, “Requirement to House Homeless Senior Veterans,” Pages 192-193.

Definition of “homeless” for the purposes of determining the number of homeless senior veterans

The adopted VSHSL Implementation Plan, using the same language from the previously adopted VSHSL Transition Plan, states that homeless senior veterans will be those persons tracked by the King County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), King County Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) and the Veterans Affairs (VA) who self-identified as veterans and, as of July 21, 2017:

- completed an assessment through CEA but had not yet moved into permanent housing or transitional housing.
- enrolled in a shelter program in HMIS.
- received a voucher or subsidy but had not yet moved into a permanent housing unit.
- enrolled in a day shelter or street outreach program within the 90 days preceding July 21, 2017.
- enrolled in a homelessness prevention or supportive services only program and indicated that they were homeless when they entered the program.
- left a program in HMIS for a non-permanent housing situation or a place not meant for human habitation within the 90 days preceding July 21, 2017.

Senior veterans or military servicemembers who were homeless on July 21, 2017

Under the Council-adopted Implementation Plan’s methodology, which was the same as the methodology from the previously Council-adopted VSHSL Transition Plan, there were 422 homeless veterans age 55 or older on July 21, 2017. Seventy-five percent of those 422 individuals is 317 individuals. The VSHSL Implementation Plan, therefore, established the 75 percent “obtained housing” threshold at 317 individuals.

Defining what constitutes “obtained housing” for homeless senior veterans

The adopted VSHSL Implementation Plan, using the same language from the previously adopted VSHSL Transition Plan, states that senior veterans will be counted as having obtained housing if:

- The veteran is placed in housing through Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) or Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) as verified by the VA Puget Sound.
- The veteran enrolls in a transitional housing program.
- The veteran enrolls in a permanent housing program (including Rapid Re-Housing with a move-in date).
- The veteran is removed from the CEA Community Queue after self-resolving their housing crisis.
- The veteran successfully exits any program to permanent housing, defined as a Permanent Supportive Housing or another permanent housing program; an owned or rented unit, with or without subsidy; or voluntarily staying with friends or family permanently.

Tracking and reporting the number of homeless senior veterans who obtain housing

The VSHSL Implementation Plan, adopted by Ordinance 18768, outlines the process through which the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) will track

and report the number of senior veterans who obtain housing. Below is an excerpt of the relevant language found in Pages 192-193 of the Council-adopted plan:

Executive staff will monthly track the number of homeless senior veterans who obtain housing. DCHS evaluation staff will track this information through use of the HMIS and CEA systems and in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The system protocol of combining, de-duplicating and reconciling information from HMIS, CEA and the VA will be used.

The Executive will regularly update the Council on the status of how many homeless senior veterans have obtained housing through the provision of a quarterly update memorandum. These quarterly update memoranda will be provided directly to Councilmembers until 317 homeless senior veterans have obtained housing.⁵

Under the VSHSL Implementation Plan, the Executive shall provide quarterly memoranda before the last day in June, September and December of 2018. The Executive shall also provide quarterly update memoranda before the last day in March, June, September and December of subsequent years, until 317 homeless senior veterans have obtained housing.

Executive reports on the number of homeless senior veterans who have obtained housing and exceeds the goal of housing 317 homeless senior veterans

Following the direction in the VSHSL Implementation Plan, DCHS provided three quarterly memoranda to Council, reporting the progress on housing homeless senior veterans as delineated below:

- The first quarterly update memorandum was transmitted to the Council on March 30, 2018. It reported that, as of March 28, 2018, 237 homeless senior veterans in King County have obtained housing.
- The second quarterly update memorandum was transmitted to the Council on June 29, 2018. It reported that, as of June 20, 2018, 307 homeless senior veterans in King County have obtained housing.
- The third quarterly update memorandum was transmitted to the Council on September 29, 2018. It reported that, as of September 13, 2018, 367 homeless senior veterans in King County have obtained housing.

Of the 367 homeless senior veterans who have obtained housing, the veterans break out into the following categories:

⁵ Attachment A to King County Ordinance 18768, VSHSL Implementation Plan, "Requirement to House Homeless Senior Veterans," Pages 192-193.

Report Certifying that at Least 317 Homeless Senior Veterans have Obtained Housing

Category	Description	Homeless Senior Veterans who Obtained Housing
VA Placements	The veteran is placed in housing through VASH or SSVF as verified by the VA Puget Sound.	109
Transitional Housing	The veteran enrolls in a transitional housing program.	56
Permanent Housing Program	The veteran enrolls in a permanent housing program (including Rapid Re-Housing with a move-in date).	95
Resolved Housing Crisis	The veteran is removed from the Coordinated Entry Community Queue after self-resolving their housing crisis.	23
Permanent Housing Exit	The veteran successfully exits any program to permanent housing, defined as Permanent Supportive Housing or another permanent housing program; an owned or rented unit, with or without subsidy, or voluntarily staying with friends or family permanently.	84
Goal Exceeded:		367

As of the last report to Council in September 2018, the Executive certifies it has met the goal of housing the number of homeless senior veterans (317) as directed by VSHSL Ordinance 18555 and subsequent legislation.

Ensuring continued work toward King County’s goal that veterans experiencing homelessness, and in particular senior veterans, obtain and retain housing consistent with the policy that homelessness be rare, brief and one-time

In addition to the quarterly reporting requirements in the VSHSL Implementation Plan relating to meeting Ordinance 18555’s goal of having 317 homeless senior veterans obtain housing, the VSHSL Implementation Plan outlines a process through which the Executive will provide information to Council related to its continued tracking of the number of homeless veterans in King County who have obtained housing during a biannual reporting period. There is also a provision in the VSHSL Implementation Plan in the event of lack of progress toward this goal. The VSHSL Implementation Plan’s language reads as follows:

It is the goal of King County that veterans experiencing homelessness, and in particular senior veterans, obtain and retain housing consistent with the policy that homelessness be rare, brief and one-time.

To facilitate this goal, DCHS shall continue to track the number of homeless veterans in King County and report to the Council not less than biannually, either through system performance dashboards or by memorandum, the number of homeless veterans and the number who have obtained housing during the reporting period. The biannual memoranda or dashboard updates should include the number of veterans entering and exiting the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and, for those who have obtained housing, how the housing needs were resolved. To the extent that progress is not being made in achieving this goal, the Executive should prepare and transmit a plan with a proposal for funding amounts and sources to be used to achieve the goal.⁶

Executive works to create biannual reporting mechanism for continued tracking of the number of homeless senior veterans who obtain housing

The Department of Community and Human Services is actively developing the mechanism through which it will continue to report progress on this important goal (either by memoranda or dashboard) to Council on a biannual basis as required in the VSHSL Implementation Plan.

DCHS and its community partners remain dedicated to and focused on continuing to pursue King County's goal that veterans experiencing homelessness, and in particular senior veterans, obtain *and retain* appropriate housing. Ongoing implementation of the VSHSL Implementation Plan will further reinforce King County's progress towards the policy of ensuring that senior veteran homelessness is rare, brief and one-time.

⁶ Attachment A to King County Ordinance 18768, VSHSL Implementation Plan, "Requirement to House Homeless Senior Veterans," Page 193.