



## KING COUNTY'S HEALTH THROUGH HOUSING INITIATIVE IN KIRKLAND

### **What is planned for the former La Quinta Inn site near EPS?**

King County has purchased the former La Quinta Inn (located adjacent to the EPS campus) for use as a Permanent Supportive Housing site. This purchase is part of the County's broader strategy to address homelessness throughout the region by offering shelter and support services to those in need at locations throughout the County. The County has hired an outside firm to plan and complete the necessary improvements on the site (including adding kitchen facilities to each unit). The County has not yet applied for a building permit, although we understand the County will submit an application in 2024. As of February 2024, King County has begun the search for an operator of the facility, although as of this writing one has not been chosen. It is anticipated that the site will likely be operational in 2025.

### **What is permanent supportive housing?**

Permanent supportive housing (PSH), pairs subsidized housing with case management and supportive services. It has been shown to help people experiencing chronic homelessness not only achieve long-term housing stability, but also improve their health and well-being. Investments in PSH have helped decrease the number of chronically homeless individuals nationally by eight percent since 2007. PSH offers wrap around services to foster housing stability, which may include case management, counseling, behavioral health supports, medical services, and meals. The types of services an individual receives will vary. There are nine buildings owned by King County as part of the Health through Housing Initiative. *Source: King County Health Through Housing FAQ*

### **What principles are guiding Eastside Prep's collaboration with King County/City of Kirkland?**

Since learning of the sale and the County's plans in January 2022, the school has engaged as a stakeholder with the City of Kirkland and King County. EPS remains focused on enhancing relationships with the City, County, and eventual operator of the facility to ensure that our voice is heard as we advocate for operational and structural measures that address reasonable safety concerns. We are interested in ensuring safety and compatibility while we recognize the importance of the City's and County's objective of helping solve the regional homelessness epidemic. We are confident that the City and County can pursue that objective while simultaneously ensuring safety and compatibility.

### **What actions has Eastside Prep taken regarding this project?**

The safety and well-being of our community remains priority number one. As we have been revising our overall safety plan following the completion of the EPS Middle School renovation and the discontinuation of our Annex property use, we include the Permanent Supportive Housing project as a part of our planning. We have retained a land use attorney and are working with the City and County to try to advance the interests of the EPS community through ongoing meetings. In partnering with the City and County, we will address the safety of not only the EPS community but our wider community, including those facing homelessness here on the Eastside.

### **How is Eastside Prep communicating with enrolled families about the project?**

We continue to ask questions of the City and County and pass along responses as they are received. Town hall-style events intended to foster dialogue and mutual understanding have been hosted by Eastside Prep in conjunction with the City of Kirkland and King County. Eastside Prep continues to communicate details as we learn them with our families in our weekly EPS newsletter via email, as well as a focused set of webpages under our Current Families password-protected website.

### **Where can we learn more about this project?**

Please search for "King County's Health Through Housing Initiative in Kirkland" to find up-to-date resources online.