

King County's Health through Housing Initiative in Kirkland (Site: La Quinta Inn)

What is currently happening at the La Quinta Inn site adjacent to the Eastside Prep campus?

On January 27, 2022, we learned that the La Quinta Inn (located adjacent to the EPS campus) might be purchased by King County as a Permanent Supportive Housing site. Within a few days we received confirmation that the County is, indeed, under contract to purchase that site. As of this writing, the County remains in the final stages of its due diligence work to determine its viability. We have been working with City of Kirkland and County officials to ask questions and learn as much as possible about the plans for the site and the process going forward. We have had multiple meetings with officials from both groups, and we remain in contact.

Given that the sale is likely to go through and the use of the property will change within the next twelve months, we continue to believe that the best possible next steps for EPS include enhancing relationships with the City, County, and eventual operator of the facility in order to ensure that our voice is heard, and expectations met. We are interested in ensuring safety/compatibility, but also recognizing the importance of the City's and County's objective of helping solve the regional homelessness epidemic.

What is permanent supportive housing?

Permanent supportive housing (PSH), which pairs subsidized housing with case management and supportive services, is a proven solution to chronic homelessness. 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. *Source:* [King County Health Through Housing FAQ](#)

What action has Eastside Prep taken regarding this project?

The safety and well-being of our community remains priority number one. As it happens, we are in the middle of re-doing our overall safety plan as a result of the completion of the Middle School and the discontinuation of our Annex property use. As we review and rethink processes and protocols based on occupancy of new facilities on the main campus, we will include the La Quinta property as a part of our planning. We are in the process of securing the services of a professional campus safety and security firm to guide us on this path and will involve parents in both a task force and community forums to review that information.

We have also retained a land use attorney and are working with the City to try to advance the interests of the EPS community. We await the opportunities that will exist in partnering with the City and County to ensure the safety of not only the EPS community but our wider community, including those facing homelessness here on the Eastside.

We will continue to ask questions of the City and County and will pass along responses as they are received. Our communication will continue to be frequent as more is learned.

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

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 visit [King County's Health Through Housing Initiative in Kirkland](#)