Bremerton City Council

Mayor

City Attorney

345 6th Street, Suite 600

Bremerton, WA 98337

Subject: Reimbursement and Continued Support for Porta Potties on MLK

Dear Members of the Bremerton City Council, Mayor, City Attorney

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to you today on behalf of Gather Together Grow Together, Rock the Block, and in collaboration with several other dedicated entities and individuals who have worked to address a pressing issue within our community.

Firstly, I would like to express our gratitude for your attendance and support at the Gather Together Grow Together Pancake Breakfast held on October 26, 2022. Your presence was greatly appreciated, and it demonstrated your commitment to our community's welfare. The event served as a catalyst for positive change, bringing together various stakeholders, including Councilman Coughlin, the Foundation for Homeless and Poverty Management, the Lived Experience Coalition, Salvation Army, Living Life Leadership, PCHS, KPHD, Resilient Ecosystems, G2 Housing, Bailey Tupai, KCR, BHA, Kitsap County (Kirsten Jewell), the HEART Program, Surviving Change, NW Hospitality, Food not Bombs, and many others. If you wish to revisit the event, you can watch the video here: [Pancake Breakfast Workgroup](https://www.youtube.com/live/lYe3zX7uKy0?si=xZn8D_XTg9Zmi_mw).

During this event, the City Council took decisive action by earmarking $10,000 for the installation of porta potties on Martin Luther King Jr. Way (MLK). This allocation was a significant step toward addressing the pressing needs of our unhoused neighbors and enhancing public health and sanitation in the area.

However, as you are aware, the journey to establish these porta potties faced numerous challenges and delays. It was only on August 31st, 2023, that G2 Housing successfully delivered and installed the porta potties on MLK, thanks in part to the collaboration and efforts of Rock the Block and other dedicated partners. I am pleased to report that since their installation, the porta potties have been in operation without incident.

Providing a porta potty for the homeless benefits both the unhoused individuals and the broader community in several ways. Firstly, it enhances the dignity and well-being of homeless individuals by offering them access to a clean and safe restroom facility, helping to maintain their basic hygiene and health.

Moreover, businesses, homeowners, and renters benefit as well, as it reduces the likelihood of public urination and defecation in public spaces, which can otherwise lead to unpleasant and unsanitary conditions. This, in turn, helps maintain property values and preserves the quality of life for residents and business owners alike.

For children in the community, having accessible porta potties contributes to a cleaner and more hygienic environment, reducing potential exposure to health hazards. It also presents a valuable opportunity for parents to teach their children about empathy, compassion, and community engagement by emphasizing the importance of helping those less fortunate.

In essence, providing porta potties for the homeless is a win-win solution that promotes the well-being and dignity of the unhoused while fostering a healthier, more harmonious community for all its members.

At present, the expenses associated with this initiative amount to $1,604.40 until October 10, 2023, with subsequent monthly costs estimated at $929.40 monthly. Enclosed with this letter, you will find the relevant expense documents for your review and consideration.

We kindly request that the Bremerton City Council honor the original intention of the $10,000 allocation by reimbursing the current expenses and committing to cover future costs until the allocated funds are exhausted. Furthermore, we seek your commitment to sustaining this essential service for our unhoused neighbors beyond the initial funding period.

By taking responsibility for the porta potties on MLK, you would not only fulfill the intended purpose of the funds but also demonstrate your dedication to improving the lives of those in our community who are most vulnerable.

We eagerly await your response and look forward to working collaboratively with you to ensure that this vital service continues. Together, we can make a lasting and positive impact on the lives of our fellow residents who rely on this service daily.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or clarification.

Respectfully,

Marwan Cameron

Executive Director, Gather Together Grow Together

Rock the Block Member