



MEMO TO: Parks and Human Services Committee of the Whole

FROM: Tisza Rutherford, Homeless Outreach Program Administrator

DATE: August 4, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 Point in Time Count

I. PURPOSE ☒ For Info Only ☐ Potential Agenda Item ☐ Scheduled for Council Action

II. RECOMMENDATION
Share a summary of the *2020 Point in Time Count Report* results

III. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Carol Helland, Director	425-556-2107
Beverly Mesa-Zendt, Interim Deputy Director	425-556-2423
Brooke Buckingham, Senior Human Services Planner	425-556-2416
Tisza Rutherford, Outreach Administrator	425-556-2413

Planning and Community Development Department

IV. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

On January 24, 2020 from 2 am to 6 am, volunteers spread throughout King County to conduct the Point-in-Time Count to count unsheltered people, which is part of a nationwide snapshot of homelessness. King County contracted with VN Research to coordinate and produce the final “Count Us In” report, which includes an estimate of homeless individuals, both sheltered and unsheltered, in Seattle and King County, sub-regional data, and key demographic findings, some of which is summarized in Attachment A.

This year’s count found a total of 11,751 people experiencing homelessness countywide. This is a 5% increase from 2019. Of those 11,751 counted in 2020, approximately 53% were sheltered and 47% were unsheltered. 440 unsheltered individuals were counted in East King County, up from 337 in 2019.

A. Analysis

The report confirms some what we are seeing “on-the-ground” here in East King County – e.g. the regional shelter system is at capacity, and yet there are still many unsheltered individuals. More than half of those who are homeless report suffering from an emotional condition. This has been affirmed by shelter providers who indicate that they are serving more clients with significant barriers, often putting a

strain on staff resources. We expect to see even more people impacted by homelessness as a result of loss of employment and housing due to the recession and COVID-19 pandemic. With fewer jobs available and many businesses cutting hours or implementing furloughs/layoffs, rental assistance and homeless shelter funding will continue to be a great community need.

Redmond's Homeless Outreach Response

Redmond's outreach approach and overall response addresses many of the barriers identified in the report including:

- Helping individuals get needed documentation (e.g. birth certificate)
- Addressing transportation needs by offering bus passes
- Using the City's Flex Fund to help with rent deposits or other needs to achieve stability
- Partnering with LWSD to bring resources and support to families experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing housing, especially undocumented families
- Collaborating with Eastside partners in developing a sub-regional approach and coordinated response
- Providing targeted outreach to individuals sleeping in their vehicles at safe parking sites, both in the morning and evening
- Funding shelter, day centers, food banks, rental assistance and other critical services

V. TIME CONSTRAINTS

N/A

VI. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment A: Summary Results](#)

[Attachment B: Count Us In - Full Report](#)