



Message from the Chief

#SafetyFirst



April 17, 2020

To Our Renton Community,

In an ongoing effort to reduce and slow the spread of the coronavirus through the homeless shelter population, King County has negotiated with three local hotels to serve as temporary shelter locations for people experiencing homelessness. The City of Renton's' Red Lion Hotel, located at 1 S Grady Way, was selected as one of these locations and housing placement began last week.

These are not isolation and quarantine facilities and the people who are moving there are presumed to be well. The Renton Police Department is working closely with the director of the homeless shelter to mitigate the impact this will have to our community, local business owners and residents. The hotels will not be open to other guests during this time. Details regarding how the shelter will be setup are as follows:

Size- 200

Timeline- The City is asking for a short term stay of 60 days (virus spread dependent).

Security- Parking lot will have temporary fencing and contracted unarmed security guards onsite, 24/7. Residents are free to

come and go (No COVID-19 patients are being brought to this facility). The fencing is to control others who are not part of the program from going in and out.

Protocols- The director of the shelter has initiated protocols for 911 reporting which require a staff member meet police officers in the lobby (should we be called) to give us any available information and escort to the location.

Staff- Medical, counseling, crisis contact team and other social services will be onsite.

Our Department has taken steps to place officers on site and are initiating extra patrols of the area on a daily basis. We understand everyone is under unique pressures, circumstances and hardships as a result of this pandemic, and the idea of thinning homeless numbers in high concentrated areas to minimize exposure is logical. If you look at the priorities of service and saving lives, this was a move made to support that priority. We had no alternative but to accept the move to Renton and we will do what we need to do to lessen the impact and keep everyone safe. Renton Police Department is committed to the safety of our community and this continues to be our top priority.

Sincerely,

Chief E. VanValey