



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

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August 2, 2019

Monica Martinez Simmons
Seattle City Clerk
600 4th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Ms. Martinez Simmons,

I have returned Council Bill 119402 unsigned, understanding it will become law.

Having proposed it in last year's budget, I share Council's interest in using Short-Term Rental Tax revenues to further expand important City investments for community-initiated equitable development projects. However, we do need to pay the overhead associated with the program. Passing legislation that creates \$1.1 million in additional spending without identifying additional revenue or corresponding budget reductions is not a sound approach to building a fiscally responsible budget. Compounded with the \$6.3 million deficit created by Council Bill 119402 and the new, ongoing funding commitments of \$1.9 million directed for human services provider wages in Council Bill 119542, this bill will require cuts or decisions contrary to the 2020 Endorsed Budget.

I strongly support the Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) Program. My Proposed 2020 Budget will ensure EDI funding continues to be expanded.

Sincerely,

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle