

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE 126106

COUNCIL BILL 119816

AN ORDINANCE related to the City’s response to the 2020 COVID-19 crisis; amending Ordinance 126000, which adopted the 2020 Budget; accepting funding from non-City sources; changing appropriations to various departments and budget control levels, and from various funds in the Budget; declaring an emergency; and establishing an immediate effective date; all by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that COVID-19 disease is a global pandemic, which is particularly severe in high risk populations such as people with underlying medical conditions and the elderly, and the WHO has raised the health emergency to the highest level requiring dramatic interventions to disrupt the spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a statewide state of emergency in response to outbreaks of the COVID-19 disease in Washington; and

WHEREAS, in response to outbreaks of the COVID-19 disease in Seattle, Mayor Jenny Durkan proclaimed a civil emergency exists in the City of Seattle in the Mayoral Proclamation of Civil Emergency dated March 3, 2020, modified by Resolution 31937; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order, which, combined with other measures taken to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, effectively closed many businesses in the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, the Governor extended the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order through May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, the Governor extended the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order through May 31, 2020; and

1 WHEREAS, many people in Seattle are struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 disease and
2 the measures taken to prevent its spread, including unemployment, housing insecurity,
3 food insecurity; and

4 WHEREAS, local companies have recently reported laying off employees, experiencing
5 substantial revenue losses, dealing with lost business due to fear and stigma, and seeing
6 major declines in foot traffic as tens of thousands of employees are being asked to work
7 from home; and

8 WHEREAS, these impacts are being felt across all industry sectors, including retail, restaurant,
9 hospitality, transportation, logistics, arts, and culture; and

10 WHEREAS, the economic impact may have long-term, dynamic, and unpredictable local and
11 regional consequences, necessitating the City to act and plan accordingly; and

12 WHEREAS, a number of City departments have implemented immediate assistance for affected
13 local small businesses and displaced workers; and

14 WHEREAS, more than half of Seattle’s residents are renters, and even before COVID-19, a
15 substantial share of renters paid more than 30 percent of their income to remain stably
16 housed; and

17 WHEREAS, the global COVID-19 crisis shows that our collective health depends on people
18 being stably housed; and

19 WHEREAS, many Seattle renters are facing job loss, struggling with childcare, and dealing with
20 other unprecedented financial burdens stemming from the global COVID-19 crisis, leaving
21 many unable to pay rent; and

22 WHEREAS, notwithstanding Governor Inslee’s eviction moratorium, renters need to pay their
23 rent to ensure long-term housing stability; and

1 WHEREAS, the United Way of King County’s expanded Home Base¹ program to provide rental
2 assistance to King County households that have lost all or part of their income due to the
3 coronavirus pandemic, originally funded at \$5 million, including \$1 million of City
4 resources, was oversubscribed within days of its creation, further evidencing the impact of
5 the immediate rental crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, on January 25, 2019, a point in time count enumerated more than 7,700 persons
7 experiencing homelessness in Seattle; and

8 WHEREAS, among those persons experiencing homelessness, over 3,500 were unsheltered; and

9 WHEREAS, 70 percent of persons experiencing homelessness across King County find shelter
10 and services in Seattle; and

11 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has published its Interim Guidance on
12 responding to COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness that suggests a variety
13 of responses and preventive measures to limit the spread of the virus among this extremely
14 vulnerable population; and

15 WHEREAS, both the CDC and Seattle – King County Public Health recommend ensuring social
16 distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between persons sleeping sheltered and
17 unsheltered; and

18 WHEREAS, existing shelters that cannot meet the social distance minimum should be de-
19 concentrated through redistribution of clients to alternate shelters, requiring The City of
20 Seattle to invest in 450 new temporary shelter beds across the city; and

21 WHEREAS, there is insufficient shelter capacity to offer beds to every person sleeping outside
22 and the City is aligned with the CDC recommendation against dispersion of encampments

¹ <https://www.uwkc.org/fighting-homelessness/home-base/>

1 as that can contribute to the spread of the virus through social contact, thus requiring the
2 City to increase access to hygiene facilities, toilets, handwashing, and showers by placing
3 portable units across the City; and

4 WHEREAS, the most effective response to homelessness is a combination of poverty alleviation
5 through safety net programs such as food banks, job training, and health care access;
6 prevention of housing loss through employment assistance and education, rent support, and
7 connection to appropriate supportive services; and immediate response to homelessness
8 through ready access to shelter and health services, especially behavioral health care, and
9 rapid connection to housing with short- or long-term financial support; NOW,

10 THEREFORE,

11 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

12 Section 1. The City Council finds and declares that:

13 A. On February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a State of Emergency for all
14 counties throughout the State of Washington as a result of the confirmed person-to-person spread
15 of COVID-19 in Washington State.

16 B. The COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person and
17 which may cause serious injury and death, has spread throughout King County and the City of
18 Seattle.

19 C. On March 3, 2020, Mayor Durkan issued a Proclamation of Civil Emergency declaring
20 a civil emergency within the City of Seattle based on the confirmed spread of COVID-19 in King
21 County and resulting deaths.

22 D. In addition to the paramount public health concerns, the spread of COVID-19 and the
23 necessary measures taken to reduce that spread are causing and will continue to cause severe

1 economic dislocation in the State of Washington, King County, and the City of Seattle. As of
2 April 25, 2020, more than a half million Washingtonians have filed for jobless benefits since the
3 start of the COVID-19 emergency. In addition, governments at all levels, including The City of
4 Seattle, face major reductions in tax revenues even as they face major new emergency
5 expenditures to combat the pandemic.

6 E. The State of Washington has taken a number of steps to mitigate the impacts of the
7 COVID-19 pandemic on people, organizations, and businesses of Washington, including passing
8 a COVID-19 relief bill in March 2020, which added state appropriations to programs used by The
9 City of Seattle to assist people facing homelessness.

10 F. The quick acceptance and appropriation of these newly available funds is crucial to
11 mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on The City of Seattle and the people and organizations it
12 serves.

13 Section 2. The Mayor or the Mayor’s designee, the Human Services Director, and the
14 General Manager/CEO of Seattle Public Utilities are authorized to accept the following non-City
15 funding from the grantors listed below; and to execute, deliver, and perform, on behalf of The
16 City of Seattle, agreements for the purposes described below. The funds, when received, shall be
17 deposited in the receiving funds identified below to support the appropriations in Section 3 of this
18 ordinance.

Item	Department	Grantor	Purpose	Fund	Amount
2.1	Human Services Department	Washington state Department of Commerce Grant	Provide funding for homeless services necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak	Human Services Fund (16200)	\$12,250,000
2.2	Seattle Public Utilities	Washington state Department of Commerce Grant	Provide funding for hygiene services necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak	General Fund (00100)	\$750,000

Item	Department	Grantor	Purpose	Fund	Amount
2.3	Human Services Department	Federal Older American's Act grant	Provide meals for seniors	Human Services Fund (16200)	\$498,120
Total					\$13,498,120

1
 2 Section 3. Contingent upon the execution of the grant or other funding agreement
 3 authorized in Section 2, the appropriations for the following items in the 2020 Budget are
 4 increased from the funds shown, as follows:

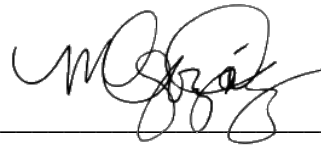
Item	Department	Fund	Budget Summary Level/ BCL Code	Amount
3.1	Human Services Department	Human Services Fund (16200)	Addressing Homelessness (BO-HS-H3000)	\$3,300,000
3.2	Human Services Department	Human Services Fund (16200)	Addressing Homelessness (BO-HS-H3000)	\$4,850,000
3.3	Human Services Department	Human Services Fund (16200)	Supporting Affordability and Livability (BO-HS-H1000)	\$2,500,000
3.4	Human Services Department	Human Services Fund (16200)	Addressing Homelessness (BO-HS-H3000)	\$1,600,000
3.5	Seattle Public Utilities	General Fund (00100)	Utility Service and Operations (BO-SU-N200B)	\$750,000
3.6	Human Services Department	Human Services Fund (16200)	Supporting Affordability & Livability (BO-HS-1000)	\$498,120
Total				\$13,498,120

5 Unspent funds so appropriated shall carry forward to subsequent fiscal years until they are
 6 exhausted or abandoned by ordinance.

7 Section 4. Based on the findings of fact set forth in Section 1 of this ordinance, the
 8 Council finds and declares that this ordinance is a public emergency ordinance, which shall take
 9 effect immediately and is necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

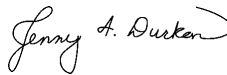
1 Section 5. By reason of the findings set out in this ordinance, and the emergency that is
2 declared to exist, this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon a passage by a 3/4 vote
3 of the Council, and its approval by the Mayor, as provided in Article IV, subsection 1.I of the
4 Charter of the City.

5 Passed by a 3/4 vote of all the members of all the members of the City Council the
6 6th day of July, 2020, and signed by me in open session in
7 authentication of its passage this 6th day of July, 2020.



8 _____
9 President _____ of the City Council

10 Approved by me this 10th day of July, 2020.



11 _____
12 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

13 Filed by me this 10th day of July, 2020.



14 _____
15 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

16 (Seal)