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DESC De-Intensification Shelter Renton

We are grateful to all parties who are working hard to ensure our most vulnerable neighbors are safe and have the support they need, especially during the crisis caused by Coronavirus. We understand the need to de-intensify services and have worked closely and quickly with our partners including the City of Renton and King County to successfully de-intensify our shelter and meal program in Renton, while also ensuring that the ongoing work of supporting successful outcomes for our clients is not compromised.

We have been hopeful that an adequate long-term plan would be put in place for the hundreds of people who have been temporarily relocated to the Red Lion in Renton. The residents of this shelter have high intensity needs and such a large volume of clients placed suddenly in Renton are stretching the community's resources and compromising the community's ability to serve them well. This shelter needs the support of more robust services and local access to permanent supportive housing.

Renton is a community of compassion and gives itself fully to supporting residents of the City and our region. The City of Renton has worked with REACH by providing us direct funding, helping us successfully locate other outside funding, helping us relocate overnight shelters and our homeless feeding program, and helping us find temporary space during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know Renton's commitment to assist those experiencing homelessness is a thoughtful, strong and enduring one.

An adequate long-term solution for those who are currently living at the Red Lion is an urgent matter and we support all efforts by the City of Renton and our partners to prioritize their care and health.

Sincerely,



Elinor Alexander
REACH President on behalf of the REACH board