

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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RON MENOR

Councilmember, District 9

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MEMORANDUM

To: Clayton Wong
Fiscal Officer

From: Councilmember Ron Menor
Council District 9

Date: August 10, 2016

Re: Travel Report on Trip to Seattle to Investigate Homeless Programs and Facilities
June 22-23, 2016

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CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Introduction

I joined Councilmembers Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga to observe firsthand innovative projects and programs that have been implemented in King County, Seattle to address their burgeoning homeless problems.

Dealing with homelessness presents a significant challenge because it is a difficult and complex problem. The homeless population is not one homogenous group. There are various reasons why an individual becomes homeless. Many of our homeless are struggling with severe mental health and substance abuse issues. There are others who have lost their jobs and cannot afford the high cost of housing on this island. Then there are those individuals who just simply refuse services and housing because they are psychologically unable to adapt to societal norms.

Given the complexity of this issue, there is no panacea or “one size fits all” solution to homelessness. There is a consensus among experts and professionals who routinely work with the homeless that it will take a multi-pronged approach to address the problem.

In this regard, Councilmembers Kobayashi, Fukunaga, and I came away impressed with the programs and facilities that we learned about in Seattle because they are models for the kinds of multi-faceted approaches that our City should adopt. The following is a description of the facilities that we visited on June 22-23, 2016.

Crisis Clinic

The administrators for Crisis Clinic refer to it as a safety net for anyone in crisis – a place they can call for counseling and intervention 24 hours a day. Crisis Clinic is a central access point for crisis resources that includes training, outreach, and a link to other community resources.

We met with Executive Director Kathleen Southwick who gave us a briefing of the program as well as a tour of their facility which includes a well-staffed and trained call center. I was most impressed with the level of coordination and cooperation that the program has achieved with multiple agencies servicing the homeless throughout King County.

Homeless Housing and Facilities

Sharon Lee, Executive Director of the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), took us on tours of the City’s homeless pockets and projects that address the needs of Seattle’s homeless. LIHI develops, owns, and operates housing for the benefit of low-income, homeless, and formerly homeless, people in Washington state, advocates for just housing

policies at the local and national levels, and administers a range of supportive service programs to assist clients in maintaining stable housing and increasing their self-sufficiency. Ms. Lee gave us tours of the following innovative projects:

1. Permanent Supportive Housing (Housing First)

a. Cheryl Chow Court and Urban Rest Stops

Cheryl Chow Court completed construction in Fall of 2014 and provides 50 units of housing for seniors making 50% or less of area median income. The building features a community room, computer lounge and library, a back patio with seating and barbeque, a front porch, a green roof with a community garden, gardening for residents and views of the Olympic Mountains. The housing complex also provides support services such as case management, counseling and healthcare services.

With a separate entrance on the ground floor, the building also features an Urban Rest Stop: a homeless hygiene center with free showers, restrooms, and laundry facilities. This Rest Stop provides the homeless with an alternative and incentive to maintain proper hygiene and refrain from unacceptable and inappropriate behavior such as urinating and defecating in public areas, that create unsanitary conditions within the community. The Urban Rest Stop is also a point of contact for homeless individuals to be referred to and access the services that they need.

What is also impressive about Cheryl Chow is that it is located in Ballard which is a gentrified, high end community. The housing complex shares similar exteriors and design with the market rate condominium next door which helped LIHI sell the concept to the community.

It should also be noted that we visited another Urban Rest Stop in downtown Seattle. This is also a clean, well-maintained and well-staffed facility that provides laundry services, showers, bathrooms, lockers and access to services for homeless individuals seeking help.

b. Ernestine Anderson Place

The housing complex features 60 studio and 1-bedroom units and a manager's unit. Ground floor community space for residents includes an exercise room, a library with internet – enabled computers, a classroom, service space, and an outside patio garden. Permanent housing linked with supportive services is provided for 45 homeless seniors, including 8 veterans, as well as housing for 15 low-income seniors. A mental health agency provides on-site supportive services.

We had an opportunity to speak to several of the tenants, and they appeared positive and upbeat just like the surroundings and living environment in this impressive apartment complex.

c. Gossett Place

This apartment complex provides 62 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and couples. Its location is in Seattle's University District, close to transportation, library, grocery stores, and opportunities for employment and recreation. The building features a computer lab, staff offices, classroom, and large community room.

Units are set aside for veterans and young adults. Supportive services are provided through a partnership with a mental health agency. Resident rent is 30% of income.

It should be noted that LIHI was able to develop all of its Housing First projects through public-private partnerships.

d. The Marion West

This apartment complex provides 49 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless young adults and low-wage earners entering the workforce. Its location is in Seattle's University District, close to shopping, employment and transit. The University District Food Bank is located on the first floor of the building. The building features community spaces, a community kitchen, an outdoor deck, a rooftop garden, a classroom and counseling offices.

2. Tiny House Village Communities

Tiny House Villages include small inexpensively built wooden shelters that provide a housing alternative to sleeping in makeshift tents that are a hardship to homeless individuals and families. LIHI furnished the materials while a broad cross-section of the community, including businesses, educational, and civic organizations, provided volunteer labor to construct these shelters.

We visited two tiny village communities. In addition to the tiny shelters, the communities had basic electricity, insulation, a bathroom pavilion, a shower pavilion, and dining areas.

LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee had this to say about one of the villages that we toured, Othello Village: "The tiny houses...are insulated and have locking doors and windows. They are far superior to other alternatives such as trying to survive in a wet tent, living under a bridge, or sleeping in a shelter next to strangers. Residents of tiny

houses feel secure when they are asleep and know that their belongings are safe when they go to work or school.”

We also visited one of the largest tent cities on the West Coast, Nicklesville, located on the outskirts of the city, near a freeway overpass on private land offered up for use to the homeless. This tent city encampment houses several hundred homeless as tenants, many of whom are working homeless. It is self-policed and is visited regularly by social service providers and food pantries. Seattle officials have tried to make these tent cities as habitable and sanitary as possible, but they are clearly not a preferred, long-term solution to addressing the housing needs of the homeless.

3. Crisis Solutions Center

The Crisis Solutions Center is a clinic that provides County-wide services to people in crisis who need immediate healthcare assistance and intervention. It provides rapid stabilization, treatment, and referrals for up to 46 individuals at a time.

The Crisis Solutions Center has three components: 1) The Crisis Diversion Facility (CDF) which is a 16-bed residential treatment facility. The facility will only accept eligible individuals in behavioral crisis who are referred by first responders in King County; 2) The Crisis Diversion Interim Services (CDIS) which is a 30-bed program that admits clients referred directly from CDF who are homeless, or at risk for homelessness; and 3) The Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) which is a team of Mental Health Professionals and Chemical Dependency Professionals who provide immediate response and intervention when calls come in from first responders.

Conclusion

As we consider the issue of homelessness in the City and County of Honolulu, we will have the benefit of having seen first-hand a number of successful programs and housing alternatives in Seattle. We had the opportunity to meet a number of key individuals with whom we will be able to dialogue in the future. We will not have to “reinvent the wheel” as we move forward on a number of initiatives here.

I strongly believe that City officials need to establish a Crisis Solutions Center on this island because there is a dire need to develop and implement a program that diverts individuals impacted by mental illness and substance abuse from jails and hospitals by providing a more appropriate therapeutic alternative.

In the City and County of Honolulu, we need to continue to explore different options for permanent supportive housing as well as utilizing tiny houses. More than ever, the City needs to be encouraging public-private partnerships to assist with the development of affordable housing.

I have attached photographs that were taken during our site visits in Seattle, Washington.

Photos



**King County Crisis Clinic
Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Crisis Clinic Executive Director Kathleen Southwick,
Councilmembers Ron Menor and Carol Fukunaga**



**King County Crisis Clinic
Executive Director Kathleen Southwick, Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga,
Ron Menor and Ann Kobayashi**



**A Trailer Park in Seattle
Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga, Ann Kobayashi and Ron Menor, and Low Income
Housing Institute (LIHI) Executive Director Sharon Lee**



**Ballard Urban Rest Stop
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee, LIHI staff Katrina Mundt, Councilmembers Carol
Fukunaga, Ron Menor and Ann Kobayashi**



**Ballard Urban Rest Stop
Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga, and LIHI staff
Katrina Mundt**



**Ballard Urban Rest Stop
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee, Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga, Ann Kobayashi
and
Ron Menor, and LIHI staff Katrina Mundt and Karen Hamm**



**Cheryl Chow Court - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Ann Kobayashi, Carol Fukunaga and Ron Menor, and
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee**



Cheryl Chow Court - Housing First Apartment Complex



**Cheryl Chow Court - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann Kobayashi, Carol Fukunaga, and
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee**



**Cheryl Chow Court - Housing First Apartment Complex
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee, Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga, Ann Kobayashi
and
Ron Menor**



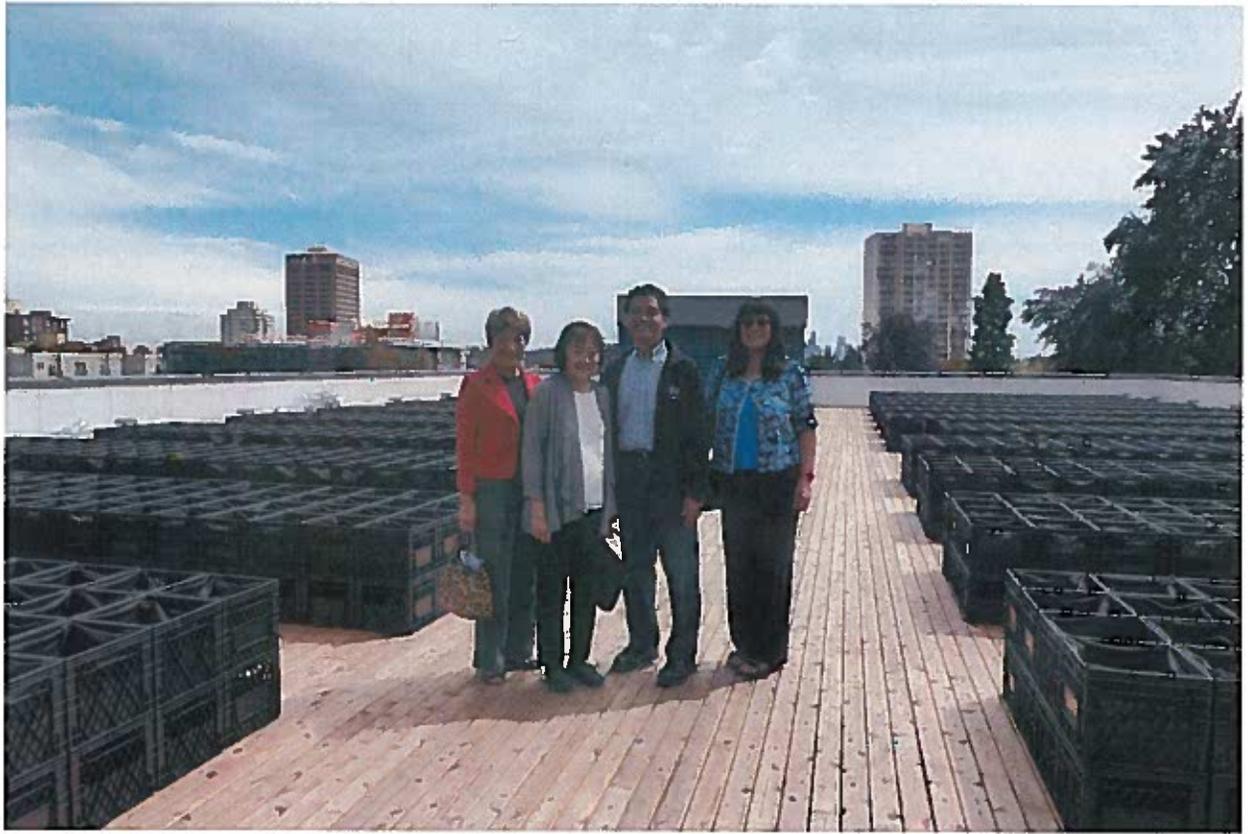
**The Marion West - Housing First Apartment Complex
49 apartments in Seattle's University District with the University District Food Bank on
the first floor**



The Marion West - Housing First Apartment Complex



**The Marion West - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga, Ann Kobayashi and Ron Menor**



**The Marion West - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga, Ann Kobayashi and Ron Menor, and
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee**



**The Marion West - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga, Ann Kobayashi and Ron Menor**



**The Marion West - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga**



**The Marion West - Housing First Apartment Complex
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee, Councilmembers Ron Menor, Carol Fukunaga and
Ann Kobayashi**



**The Marion West - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Ron Menor and Carol Fukunaga, LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee,
and Councilmember Ann Kobayashi**



**Gossett Place - Housing First Apartment Complex
63 apartments providing permanent supportive housing**



Gossett Place - Housing First Apartment Complex



Gossett Place - Housing First Apartment Complex



**Gossett Place - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga**



**Gossett Place - Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga and Ann Kobayashi, LIHI staff Angela Balderama,
Councilmember Ron Menor, and LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee (in back)**



**Downtown Urban Rest Stop
Councilmember Carol Fukunaga, Downtown Urban Rest Stop manager Ronni Gilboa,
Councilmembers Ron Menor and Ann Kobayashi**



**Crisis Solutions Center
Crisis Solutions project manager Ash Warren, Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann
Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga**



Crisis Solutions Center



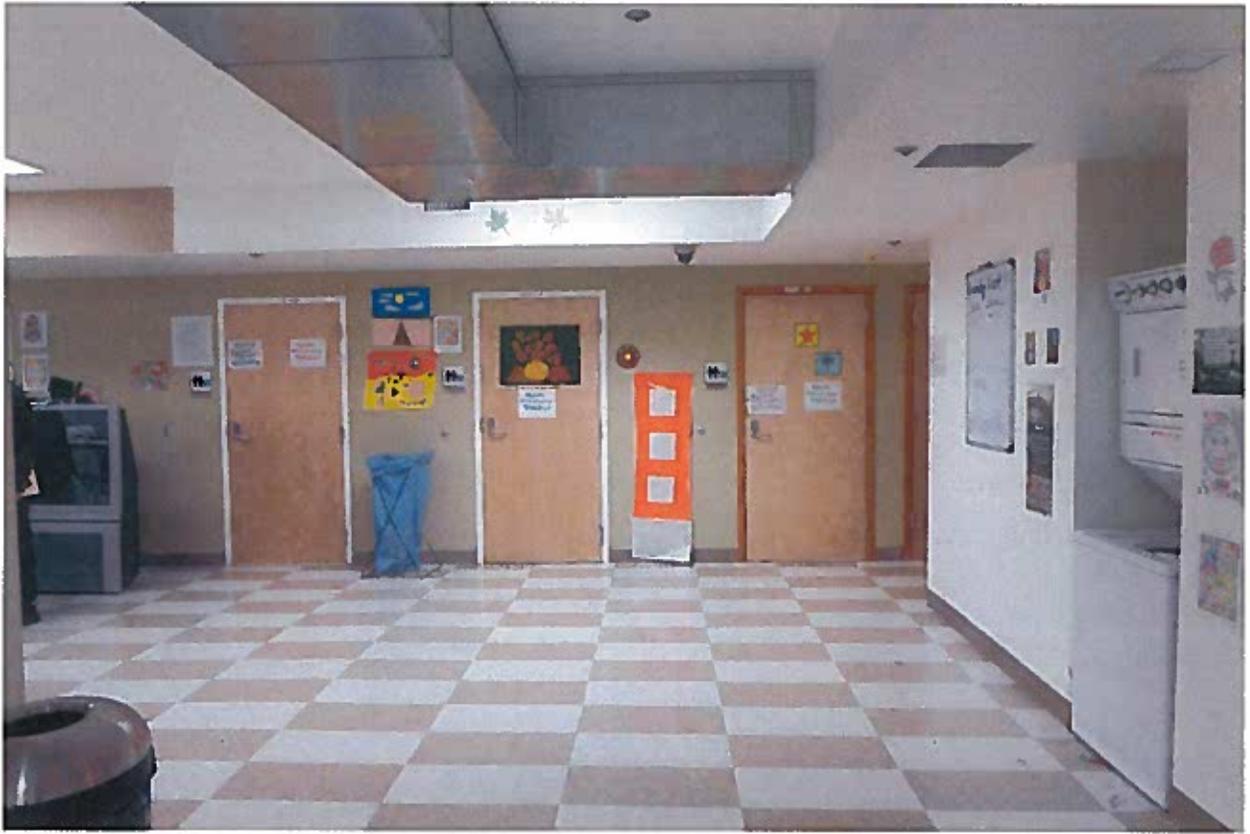
Crisis Solutions Center



Crisis Solutions Center



Crisis Solutions Center



Crisis Solutions Center



Crisis Solutions Center



**Crisis Solutions Center
Councilmembers Carol Fukunaga, Ann Kobayashi and Ron Menor, and
project manager Ash Warren**



Crisis Solutions Center



**Crisis Solutions Center
Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga, and
project manager Ash Warren**



Crisis Solutions Center



Crisis Solutions Center



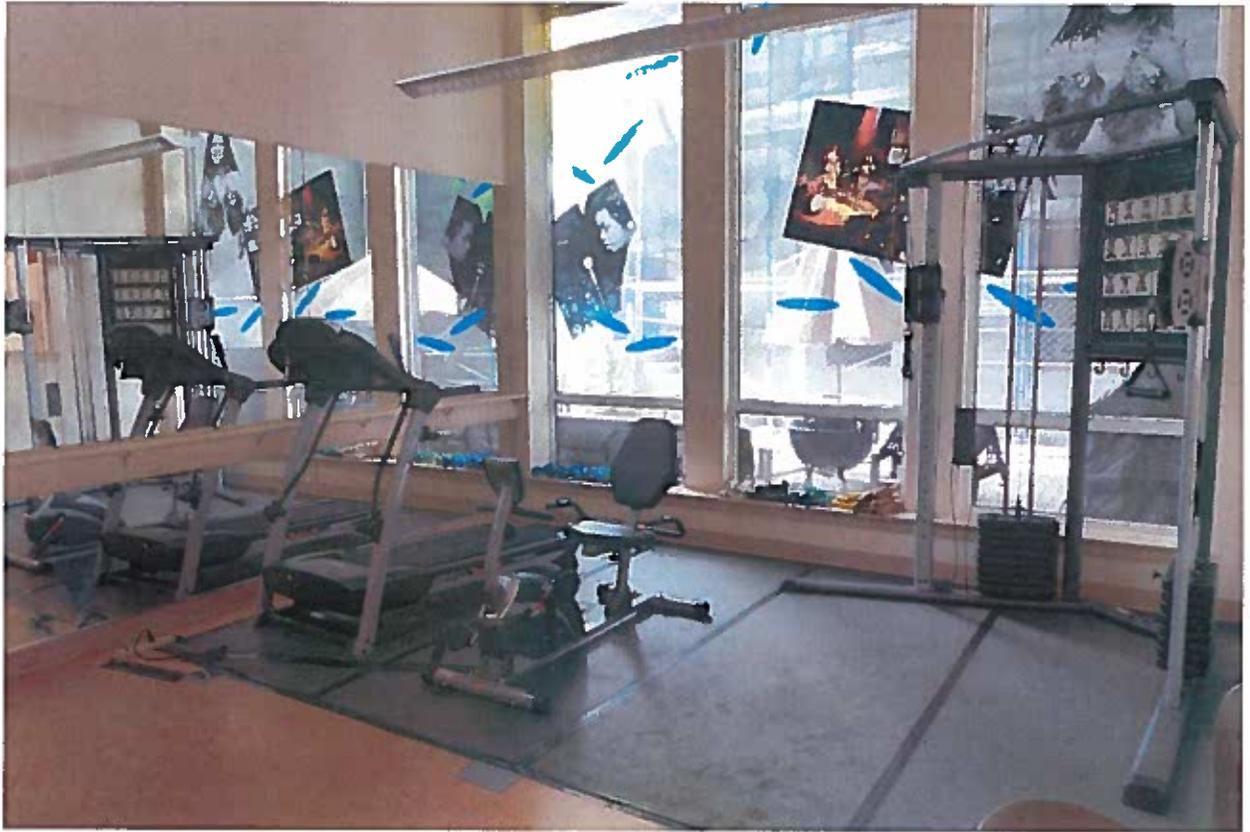
Crisis Solutions Center



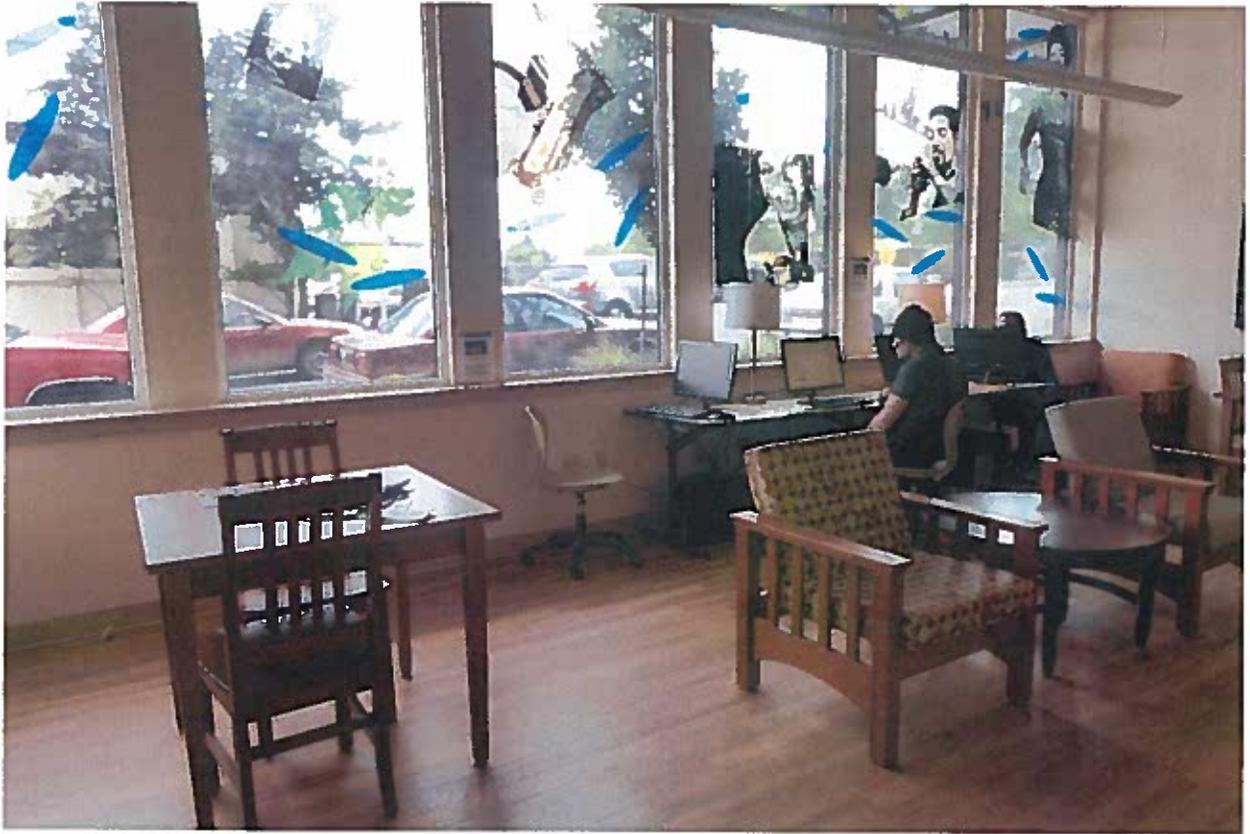
**Ernestine Anderson Place – Housing First Apartment Complex
60 apartments providing permanent supportive housing**



**Ernestine Anderson Place – Housing First Apartment Complex
Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga**



Ernestine Anderson Place – Housing First Apartment Complex



Ernestine Anderson Place – Housing First Apartment Complex



**Ernestine Anderson Place – Housing First Apartment Complex
LIHI Area Manager Ralph Neis, Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann Kobayashi and Carol
Fukunaga, and LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee**



Ernestine Anderson Place – Housing First Apartment Complex



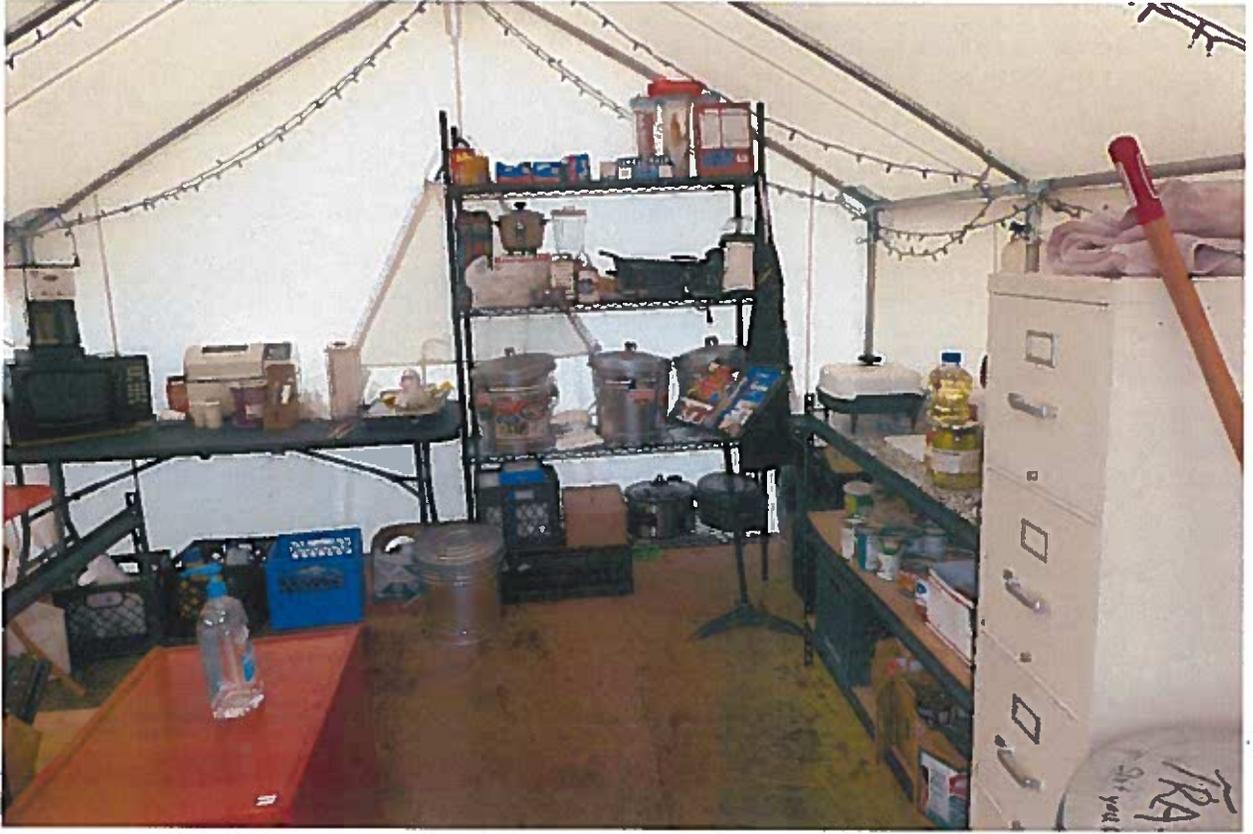
**One of the Tiny House Villages
Councilmembers Ron Menor, Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga, and
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee**



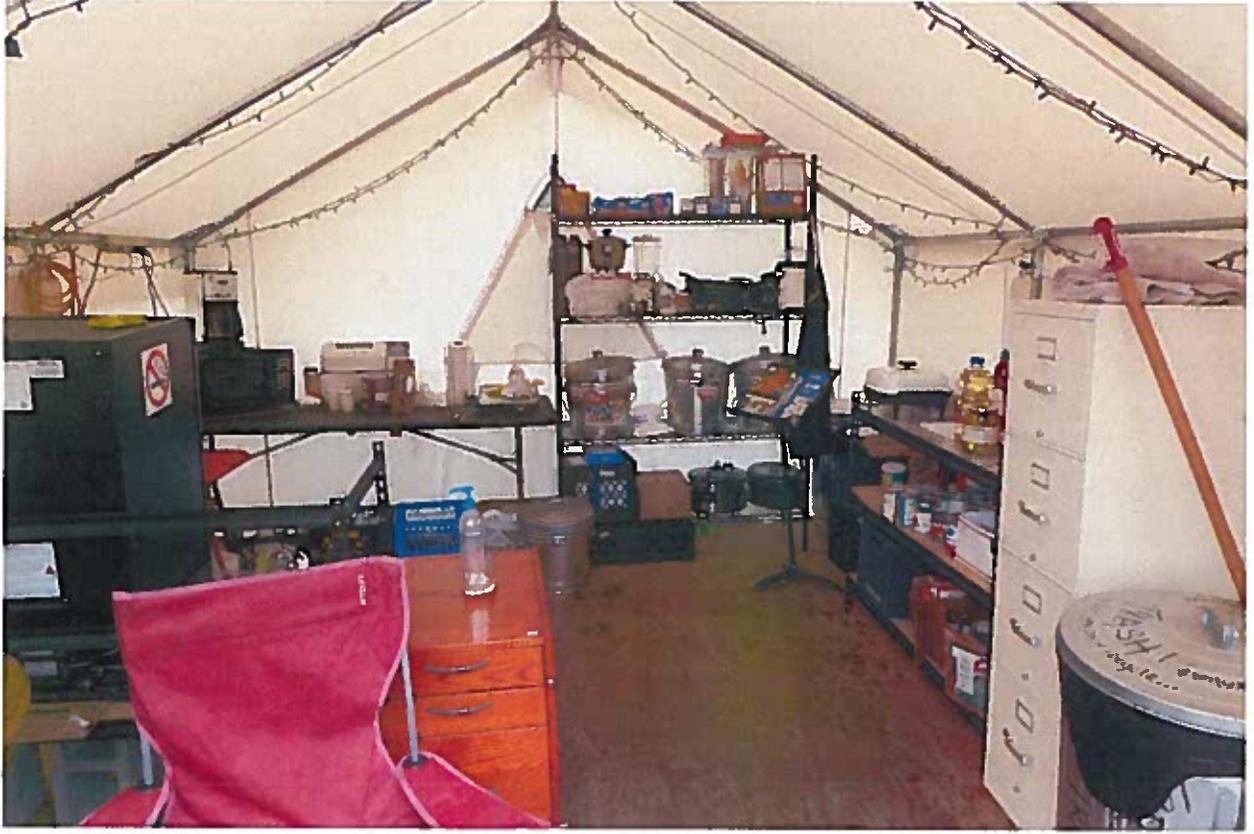
One of the Tiny House Villages
Councilmembers Ron Menor and Ann Kobayashi, LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee, Councilmember Carol Fukunaga, and resident Steve Hunter of the Tiny House Village



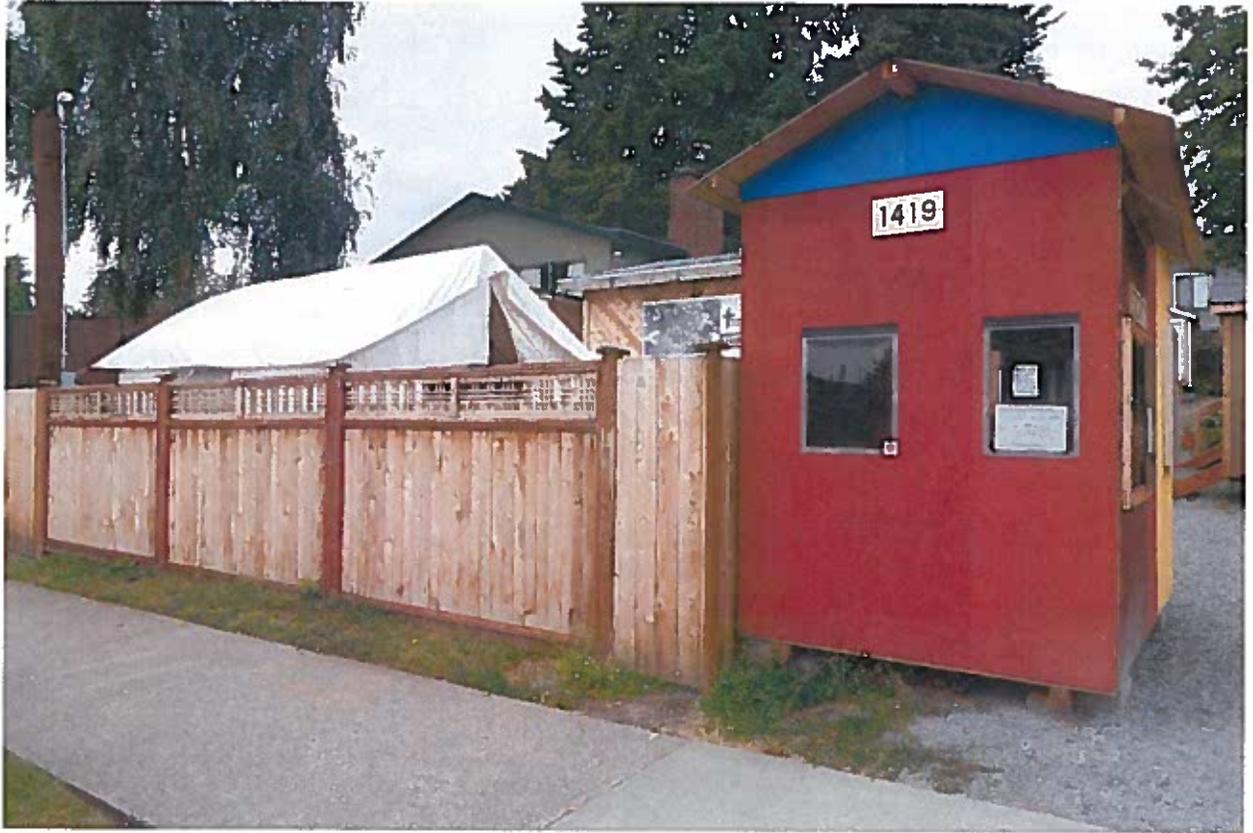
**One of the Tiny House Villages
Councilmembers Ann Kobayashi, Carol Fukunaga and Ron Menor, and
LIHI Area Manager Ralph Neis**



One of the Tiny House Villages



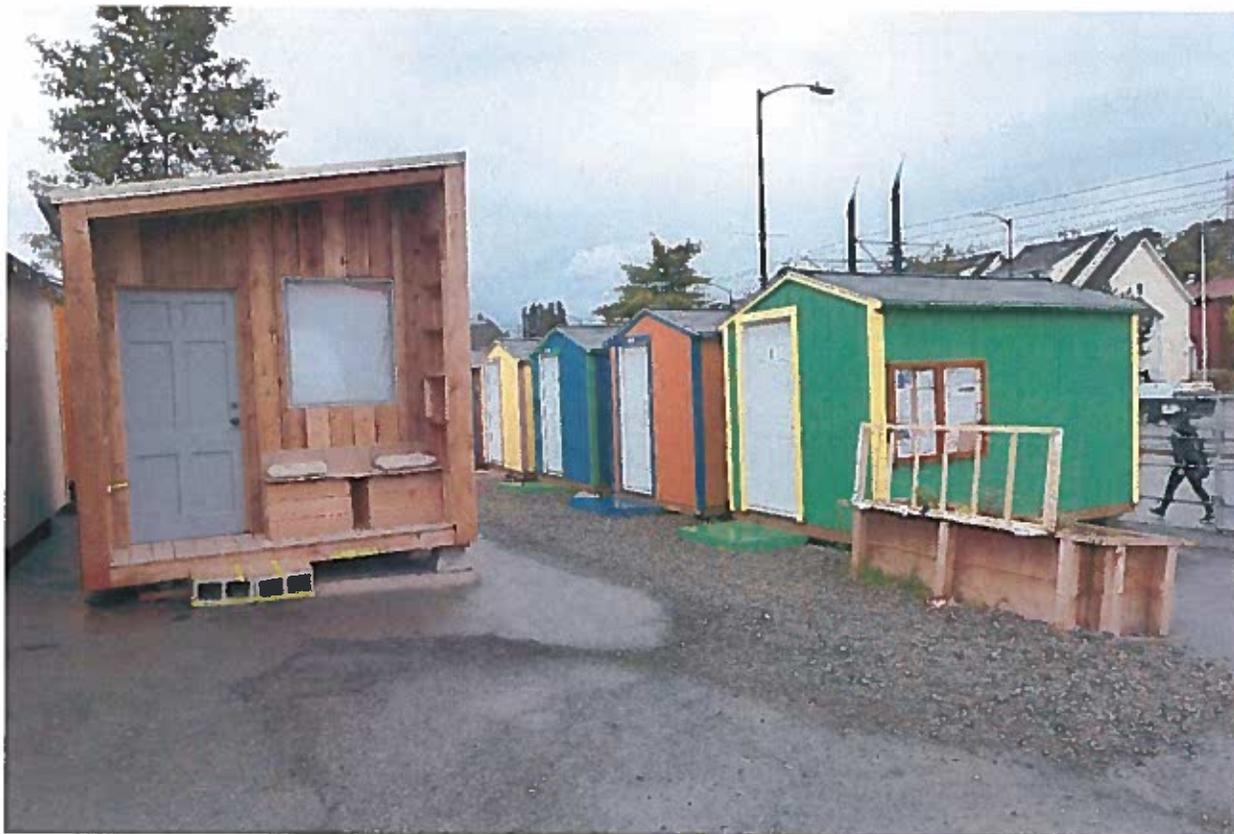
One of the Tiny House Villages



One of the Tiny House Villages



**Nickelsville Othello Village
LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee, resident Kevin, Councilmembers Ron Menor, Carol
Fukunaga, and Ann Kobayashi**



Nickelsville Othello Village

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: July 12, 2016

Traveler: Councilmember Ron Menor
 Event: Investigate Homeless Programs and Facilities
 Location: Seattle, Washington
 Dates: From June 21, 2016 To June 24, 2016

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	0.00	
2. Airfare	784.00	\$734.00 (Airfare) + \$50.00 (Baggage Fee)
3. Hotel	787.50	
4. Meals	46.92	
5. Ground Transportation	106.00 103.00	
6. Tips	6.00	\$4.00 (Housekeeping) + \$2.00 (Bell Boy)
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	1730.42 1,727.42	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:



 Signature of Traveler

JUL 12 2016

 Date