

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



August 2, 2021

Lynnwood City Council
City Hall Council Chambers
19100 44th Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Cc: Mayor Nicola Smith, Chief of Police James Nelson, City Clerk Karen Fitzthum

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

Thank you all for your tireless work on behalf of the residents of Lynnwood. We, your 32nd district legislative delegation, are writing to lend our support to the notion of dedicating a portion of the community justice center to be constructed as community behavioral health beds, rather than jail beds. The need for withdrawal management (detox) and crisis stabilization beds in south Snohomish County is extraordinary and has only increased as a result of the pandemic. Just this afternoon, a headline on KING 5 reads: "Snohomish County sets record for overdose deaths." We lost 232 sons, daughters, moms, dads, spouses and friends to preventable overdose last year. Just this past weekend alone, there were seven overdose deaths in our county. The youngest victim was 17 years old. At present, Lynnwood residents must travel far from home to receive care for urgent behavioral health needs. Our community deserves these resources here at home should individuals and families need them. Investing in behavioral health improves both public health and public safety. Just as active addiction is correlated with crime, so too is recovery correlated with positive community engagement.

As your legislative delegation, we are committed to securing state capital budget dollars for building out this proposed behavioral health unit at the new facility. We are writing to ask for your partnership in this effort by voting tonight to give us the gift of time. We'd like you to please support a time-limited delay of the construction contract vote in order to allow for a small stakeholder group to meet over a six-week period to rethink the design of part of the community justice center and how it might be converted to behavioral health treatment beds.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Lauren Davis, Representative
32nd Legislative District

Cindy Ryu, Representative
32nd Legislative District

Jesse Salomon, Senator
32nd Legislative District