



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

To: Mayor Jenny Durkan

CC: Deputy Mayor Casey Sixkiller
Deputy Mayor Michael Fong
Acting Director Jason Johnson, Human Services Department
Seattle City Councilmembers

Dear Mayor Durkan,

I am writing to follow up on the question I asked Deputy Mayor Fong at yesterday's City Council meeting about urgently providing a new permit for our homeless neighbors at the Northlake Tiny House Village.

The permit for the Northlake village is due to expire at the end of this month. In light of the Coronavirus crisis facing our region, immediately reestablishing Northlake's permit is exactly the kind of measure I hope you will take under your emergency powers.

In fact, I had hoped that Deputy Mayor Fong would've taken the opportunity in yesterday's Council meeting to say that, of course, the Mayor's office would be providing Nickelsville Northlake with a new one-year permit, rather than evicting them at the end of this month. Unfortunately, we did not receive any definite response. Since then, both you and Councilmembers have been contacted by community members urging you to provide Nickelsville with a new permit.

As you recall, 2,263 people signed a [petition](#) initiated by my office and community members last November, with over 2,000 of them in the first 48 hours alone. This united effort successfully stopped you from evicting the Northlake tiny house village at that time. Clearly, they have huge support.

Tiny House Villages have been proven to be the most humane and successful shelter option to address Seattle's homelessness crisis (which is also still officially in a State of Civil Emergency). In last year's People's Budget movement, we successfully funded an expansion of Seattle's tiny house villages. And last month, the City Council passed my ordinance allowing up to 40 villages to be permitted. Evicting the Northlake Tiny House Village would be unacceptable in normal times, but in light of the danger posed by Coronavirus, it would be shocking.

Please let us know your plans for Northlake Tiny House Village. I urge you to provide them with a new permit. Keep our community members safe in their tiny houses, particularly in the context of a serious crisis.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Kshama Sawant, District 3