The issue for Kirkland is that we do not fund Tent Cities so we have no leverage in this issue. A while back, in response to Janice’s concerns, I met with our human services staff & our police department to see what response Kirkland could have to the allegations about Tent City. Since we do not fund them and Kirkland police has not received any complaints, we could not take any action.

My personal view is that King County needs to put an undercover officer in Tent City to find out what is going on.

Doreen

-----Original Message-----
From: Toby Nixon [mailto:toby@tobynixon.com]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 2:39 PM
To: 'Linda Olsen'; 'Janice Richardson'; Kate.Kruller@TukwilaWa.gov; Doreen Marchione; 'Carl de Simas'; sally.clark@seattle.gov; sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov; jean.godden@seattle.gov; tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov
Cc: kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov; jane.hague@kingcounty.gov; larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov; rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov
rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov
Subject: RE: LAW DOES NOT ALLOW HOMELESS TO BE DV

My understanding of Janice's concern is that Seattle and King County, directly and through a number of non-profit agencies, provide funding for tent cities and other forms of homeless shelter through SHARE. When someone is sexually assaulted in one of SHARE's facilities, and someone calls 911 to report it, then the person who called the police (even if they are the victim) is automatically barred from housing in all SHARE facilities, including all shelters and tent cities. This is a huge disincentive for anyone to report such crimes. Who would make such a report if the result will be getting chased out of camp under threat of violence and told to never come back, knowing that there is no place else for them to go but the street?

Janice would like us -- all of us, as community leaders -- to acknowledge that this outrage is taking place, and to demand that SHARE's rules be changed so that it is safe for ANYONE to report a crime that occurs in any SHARE facility, and that nobody can be barred from camps or shelters because they do so. Janice believes that public funds should not be allowed to be granted, or provided on a fee-for-service basis, to any organization that uses intimidation and threats of violence and deprivation of housing to prevent the reporting of sexual assaults, including against minors, or for reporting other crimes. Such organizations should not be permitted to claim because they are self-policing, run by committee, and take care of their own problems, that they are therefore exempt from the law, that police are not welcome to come onto their territory to enforce the law, and that anyone who calls in the police must be forcibly removed and barred from returning.
Janice has been asking for this action for many years. She has been ignored for too long. When will those who have the power to do something about it stand up and act? Shouldn't it be as simple as adding a clause to all contracts -- not only for SHARE, but EVERY social service non-profit -- that the contract will be cancelled and the organization be ineligible in the future if the organization maintains any policy (or evidences by their action the existence of an unwritten policy) of rejecting people from receiving services because they report a crime?

By not dealing with this, we are tacitly condoning it.

Best regards,

Toby Nixon
Kirkland City Council

-----Original Message-----
From: Linda Olsen [mailto:linda@wscadv.org]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 8:43 AM
To: Janice Richardson; Kate.Kruller@TukwilaWa.gov; Toby Nixon; dmarchio@kirklandwa.gov; Carl de Simas; sally.clark@seattle.gov; sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov; jean.godden@seattle.gov; tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov
Cc: kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov; jane.hague@kingcounty.gov; larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov; rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov
Subject: RE: LAW DOES NOT ALLOW HOMELESS TO BE DV

Janice,
It isn't completely clear to me what you're asking. Domestic violence confidential shelters prioritize those who are in the greatest amount of danger as a result of intimate partner violence (in the State of Washington DSHS DV shelter Administrative Codes and contracts). Because of the high turnaway rates at DV shelter, there is often not even enough space for those at the highest end of the lethality rate. When you and I first started talking about safety for women who had been sexually assaulted in the eastside Tent City, I suggested that Lifewire could be a resource. I have a long history with that organization and made the call to them asking if they could provide a safe space (they often have hotel money) for a sexual assault victim in need of shelter and wanting to report sexual assault/harassment/exploitation without fear of retaliation from the Tent City management. The shelter director confirmed that this is something they would do. I could possibly do a similar ask of New Beginnings, but I know their shelter space and resources do not have the same flexibility as Lifewire. I do not know the new leadership at DAWN yet--wouldn't feel comfortable asking. This is not a conversation I would have with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's office. The goal is for safety--and the ability to make a report if someone chooses to. The end goal isn't for the report to be a requirement of receiving safe shelter. No domestic violence agency would agree with that as an expectation for someone receiving safe shelter and/or services.

I think you and I also have talked about the law and definition of domestic violence in this state, which includes roommates/those sharing living accommodations. This could be stretched to the SHARE locations. But basically, sexual assault and sexual exploitation certainly stand alone and don't have to come under a domestic violence umbrella.

So I may be totally off the mark with your concerns--I'm so sorry if I am.
I do respect and appreciate your tireless efforts to be a voice for those in fear of raising their own. All the best,

Linda Olsen, MA, MSW
Program Coordinator, Housing
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
500 Union Street, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98101
206-389-2515, x 205
206-389-2520 (FAX)
-----Original Message-----
From: Janice Richardson [mailto:ncaazebra@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 4:39 PM
To: Linda Olsen; Kate.Kruller@TukwilaWa.gov; Toby Nixon; d marches@ kirklandwa.gov; Carl de Simas; sally.clark@seattle.gov; sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov; jean.godden@seattle.gov; tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov
Cc: kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov; jane.hague@kingcounty.gov; larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov; rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov
Subject: LAW DOES NOT ALLOW HOMELESS TO BE DV

When trying to get homeless women that say they were sexually assaulted
harassed or forced into sex acts. into safe housing so they feel non
threatened to report to those who's job it is to get reports. The
homeless say DAWN AND NEW BEGINNINGS. KC PROSECUTORS SAY Homeless under
SHARE DON'T QUALIFY. the assailant is unrelated. ???? If you
have no where safe to go that KC211 has 6 week back log and your option is tent city share or nicklesville one in the
same same rules. Same cult rules
and same leaders. The police seem to not understand that there is NO
safe housing in KC. That homeless are not welcome, don't qualify, can't go to the referrals that work for a live in or
married couple a victim of
domestic abuse. Anyone able to
answer this? Safe harbors is city data collecting. We as a community
don't have a SAFE HARBOR for these vulnerable women! It appears that
maybe this is a reason they are easily victimized and have a history of silence until its later and difficult For police to
investigate and put a
case together? I'm not an expert but looking for answers no one
has. Janice.