



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**  
**Paula J. Hammond, P.E.**  
Secretary of Transportation

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July 20, 2009

Dear Residents of the Tent City located on WSDOT property on West Marginal Way in Seattle:

I have appreciated our conversation over the past six weeks, seeking to find a solution to your housing needs. We have worked together alongside King County, the City of Seattle and both the Church Council of Greater Seattle and the Lutheran Public Policy office of Washington State to find a more suitable location for your encampment.

As you know, by moving your encampment on to State of Washington property without authorization on June 6th, you have been trespassing and we provided you with notice of such on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

In our discussions, we have agreed that WSDOT is a transportation agency, and is not prepared to host an encampment. The site is not suitable for long-term habitation, and staying here could jeopardize your health.

The City of Seattle has notified us that the state is in violation of health and safety ordinances. As a result of the violation notice and the expiration of our agreed-upon deadline to come to a decision, the encampment can no longer stay on DOT property.

In addition, WSDOT does not have authority to make this site, which is public property, available to you, as that would be an inappropriate gift of public funds. Our attorneys have also advised that your presence on this property poses liability risks for WSDOT.

We remain willing to help. Social workers from the state have visited your encampment on several occasions to assist food banks, and offer help with employment placement and health care. More appropriate resources are available in the King County area for people who need assistance finding food, housing, medical services and employment.

I understand that you would prefer a permanent site for your encampment within the City of Seattle, but have not yet found a property owner willing to accommodate such a location. However, I also understand that you have had offers from faith organizations to host you on a temporary basis and that you have declined these generous offers.

A temporary move to a healthier and more appropriate location would serve you better than to remain where you are, which is not acceptable or safe. In addition, you will commit a criminal trespass if you remain on the property.

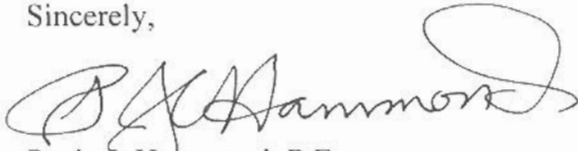
July 20, 2009

Page Two

You must therefore vacate this piece of property within the next 72 hours.

I thank you for your cooperation. I would also like to thank the city, the county, the Port of Seattle and Church Council for their partnership to help find a solution. In particular the church councils have been intermediary and have operated in good faith throughout this process and we truly appreciate and thank them for that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Hammond". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Paula J. Hammond, P.E.  
Secretary of Transportation