



## SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### **Ordinance Change: Community Outreach**

The SHRC's taskforce on homelessness has been researching the possibility of an ordinance change to the City of Seattle's Malicious Harassment ordinance. This ordinance change would add the term "homelessness" to the current ordinance to include an additional protection to those individuals who are homeless against malicious harassment. Prior to submitting the ordinance change to the City Council, the members of the taskforce presented the proposal to various community stakeholders.

#### **1. The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness General Meeting**

Background: Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH) was formed in 1979 and is one of the oldest homeless coalitions in the country. They work collaboratively to ensure the safety and survival of people who are homeless and to end the crisis of homelessness in our region.

Members of the taskforce presented the ordinance change at their general meeting in April. The group discussed the ordinance change, and overall there was positive support for the proposal. SKCCH members were also eager to take the ordinance change a step further to ensure that the training and education outreach was a strong component of the overall campaign.

#### **2. University District Service Providers Alliance Spring Meeting**

Background: The University District Service Providers Alliance (USDPA) is a coalition of nonprofit organizations in Seattle's University District working together to create a comprehensive continuum of care for homeless and street-involved youth and young adults. Some of the service providers include the 45th Street Youth Clinic, Street Youth Ministries, Rising Out Of The Shadows, University District Youth Center, Sanctuary Art Center, University Family YMCA, Seattle Education Access and University Street Ministry.

Charles Hodges, a member of the taskforce, presented at the UDSPA meeting April 20<sup>th</sup> and received overwhelming support. USDPA offered to assist with the education efforts that will begin once the ordinance change occurs. They recommended that the taskforce attend their Homelessness 101 class, which prepares new staff to begin working in a program serving homeless youth.

#### **3. Community Outreach Forum - May 8th at Douglass Truth Library**

The taskforce organized a community outreach meeting to provide an opportunity for community members to learn more about the ordinance and to express their support and concerns about the ordinance change.

There were approximately 10 community residents who attended, representing organizations such as the Seattle Housing Authority, UDSPA, Share/Wheel, Women in Black and more. In general, there was a very positive response to the change and everyone who attended wanted to be included in future outreach efforts.