CITY OF FIRCREST
RESOLUTION NO. 2041

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING ITS INTENT AND COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH OTHER PIERCE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO LAUNCH A UNIFIED REGIONAL APPROACH TO HOMELESSNESS; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER PIERCE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT; AND EXPRESSING ITS INTENT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS BY TAKING CERTAIN ACTIONS WHILE AGREEMENTS ARE IN DEVELOPMENT.

WHEREAS, homelessness is a persistent and complex challenge in Pierce County with many root causes; and

WHEREAS, 9 homeless individuals who were served by Pierce County's homeless response system in 2025 reported they last slept in Fircrest and 66 homeless individuals who were served by Pierce County's homeless response system in 2025 reported that 98466 was the zip code of their last permanent address; and

WHEREAS, during the 2024-2025 school year, 50 students enrolled at Whittier Elementary, Evergreen Primary, or Wainwright Intermediate were supported by the McKinney-Vento program for children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

WHEREAS, from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, 16 eligible households in Fircrest applied for rental assistance through Pierce County's Eviction Prevention program; and

WHEREAS, governments across Pierce County share a common interest in ensuring that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring; and

WHEREAS, addressing homelessness requires coordinated solutions across jurisdictional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Pierce County adopted a Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness which included a goal to "Create a Unified Homeless System"; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, the Pierce County Council contracted with Uncommon Bridges to work with governments across Pierce County to scope, design, and implement a Unified Regional Approach to homelessness (URA) in Pierce County; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 Uncommon Bridges began convening multiple meetings with an Elected Leadership Group (ELG) consisting of elected officials from governments in Pierce County to scope and design the URA; and

WHEREAS, the ELG included elected leaders from Pierce County and the Cities of Auburn, Edgewood, Fife, Gig Harbor, Orting, Lakewood, Puyallup, Tacoma, and University Place; and

WHEREAS, in April 2025, the ELG proposed that the purpose of the URA is "to substantially reduce homelessness so that it is rare, brief, and non-recurring"; and

WHEREAS, in March 2026, the ELG proposed a URA design that includes a governance board to direct URA operations, consisting of representatives from participating governments and limited staffing to support URA operations; and

WHEREAS, in March 2026, the ELG proposed a URA be established via Interlocal Agreement (ILA) pursuant to Chapter 39.34 RCW, without the establishment of a separate legal entity; and

WHEREAS, in March 2026, the ELG proposed that while an Interlocal Agreement is in development, participating Pierce County governments begin coordinating actions by aligning data requirements for providers, processes to support homeless households, and inclement weather policies; and

WHEREAS, in April 2026, the ELG proposed that the mission of the URA is to "empower Pierce County governments to choose locally responsive solutions to respond to and prevent homelessness, while establishing a countywide framework that supports coordination and efficient use of shared resources; and

WHEREAS, while an ILA is in development, the Fircrest City Council desires to express support for the establishment of the URA and identify actions that the City of Fircrest can take to align its homeless response with other Pierce County governments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST:

Section 1. The City of Fircrest expresses its intent and commitment to work with other Pierce County governments to launch a Unified Regional Approach to homelessness (URA) across Pierce County as proposed by the Elected Leadership Group.

Section 2. The City Council directs the City Manager to work collaboratively with other Pierce County governments to develop an Interlocal Agreement and other agreements necessary and desirable to achieve the intent of this Resolution, and to return at a future date with proposed agreements for Council's consideration. The Interlocal Agreement should include mechanisms to ensure strong fiscal oversight and transparency in communicating with the public on the URA's work, funding, budget, and outcomes.

Section 3. While agreements are in development, the City of Fircrest expresses its intent to make progress in addressing homelessness through the following actions with the support of the team leading URA implementation and in collaboration with other Pierce County governments:

- Develop or update a procedure to connect homeless residents to housing and shelter via existing systems like Coordinated Entry (the County's access point for housing referrals) and the Shelter Access Hub (a 24/7 call center that connects people to shelter options in Pierce County);
- Develop or update an inclement weather policy that includes coordination and alignment with other governments to connect homeless people with resources during inclement weather events;
- Identify locations in the City of Fircrest that may serve as inclement weather shelter; and
- Support establishment or expansion of at least one homeless intervention in the City of Fircrest.

Section 4. This Resolution does not authorize execution of an Interlocal Agreement, nor does it create binding legal or financial obligations for the City of Fircrest.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST, WASHINGTON, at a regular meeting thereof this 27th day of October 2026.

APPROVED

Nikki Buffo rd, Mayor

ATTEST:

Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney