

Eastside Interfaith Gathering Celebration & Gratitude to Keep People Housed – 7.6.21

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PASSCODE: [7/6Celebrate](#)

Time	Speaker	Topic
0:00 min - 7:50 min	Michael Ramos, Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle, CCGS, & Individual Interfaith Leaders	Prayerful opening. Introductions of Faith Leaders, Congregation and Legislative District (LD)
8:00 min - 11:00 min	Michael Ramos	Historic role of faith community in addressing Homelessness, Low-Income Affordable Housing, 44,000 additional units needed by 2024.
11:00 min - 14:00 min	Karen Studders, Eastside Interfaith Coordinator, Consultant for CCGS, convenor of the Eastside Interfaith Gathering, EIG	So grateful for all of your participation this session. We've invited the legislators to explain the housing/homelessness legislation that the faith community successfully advocated for. Introduce <i>Panel of Four Legislators</i> – Representatives Thai, Springer, Kloba and Senator Kuderer. Each has 3 min to cover a bill (intent of legislation, amendments, final bill that passed and why important) and 3 min personal/about their LD.
14:50 min - 20:55 min	Repr. My-Linh Thai, LD 41	<i>HB 1236 -Just Cause Evictions.</i> 12 causes, 2 causes added, probationary period. First refugee elected to WA State Legislature – from Vietnam.
21:00 min - 24:20 min	Repr. Larry Springer, LD 45	<i>HB 1277 – Document Recording Fee.</i> Increased fee from \$78 to \$100 AND it is now a permanent source of funding, raising millions of dollars. Some document exceptions. Four Kirkland mayors have become WA State Legislators. Repr. Springer has served 18 years in the state legislature.
25:60 min - 33:35 min	Sen. Patty Kuderer, LD 48	<i>SB 5160 – Right to Counsel & The Bridge.</i> Keep tenants housed and ensure landlords paid, mandatory mediation and Dispute Resolution Center (DRC). WA is first state to enact Right to Counsel. Sen. Kuderer is the first female senator in LD 48. Learned congregant shelter does not work; motel rooms work. Not one size fits all. Create resources and collaborate.
34:00 min - 39.30 min	Rep. My-Linh Thai, LD 41 Rep. Larry Springer, LD 45 (substitute for Rep. Kloba)	<i>HB 1220 – Growth Management Act & fundamental shift in land use planning to make it inclusive and stops redlining.</i> Primary driver of land use is local government, which must now pay attention to how much Affordable Housing and Shelter is located in their cities and counties.
39:50 min - 41:30 min	Michael Ramos	<i>Introduce 3 Legislators</i> – Senator Dhingra and Representatives Ramos and Walen. 5 min each for 3 legislators to answer Q1 and cover personal/legislative district information. Q1 and Q2 are from faith leaders and were provided in advance to legislators.

41:50 min - 42:00 min	Michael Ramos	<i>Q1: The motto for our campaign has been “Keep People Housed.” So many of our residents remain vulnerable in terms of staying safely and stably housed. What can you do further to ensure that rents can be affordable to people “one-paycheck away” in a time and area of escalating rent prices?</i>
42:18 min - 46:40 min	Sen. Manka Dhingra, LD 45	Serve on Governor’s Poverty Policy Task Force understanding historical poverty and trauma. Differences between statewide vs. local ordinances important. Together Center in Redmond building housing with includes permanent supportive housing, social service, affordable housing tied to medium income.
46:40 min - 51:60 min	Rep. Bill Ramos, LD 5	Food, clothing and shelter important for people. LD 5 is unique in East King County with much unincorporated. Keeping people housed is cheaper and better than providing them housing after they become homeless. Setup systems so people don’t lose their housing. Today’s ADU’s are not affordable housing! Last three years in the legislature fairer for all. Tough housing costs here.
52:00 min - 57:10 min	Rep. Amy Wallen, LD 48	Served nine years on Kirkland City Council. Land use decisions are the most contentious with NIMBY. We have a housing shortage of 240,000 units in King County/WA State. We need to build housing, be brave, commutes taking hours, affecting families, reduces the time working parents have to be home with children. King County One Table. Religious organizations and shopping malls have access to buses and services and should be upzoned.
57:10 min- 58:10 min	Michael Ramos	Thank you for your heart, passion, leadership. EIG acts at the intersection of affordable housing and homelessness. 5 legislators present so you have 2.5 min each to answer Q2.
58.10 min - 58.40 min	Michael Ramos	<i>Q2: How do our faith leaders best stay in communication with you related to our priorities and lifting up the voices of those who tend to be left out of policy conversations affecting them?</i>
58.40 min - 1:00.00 hr	Sen. Manka Dhingra, LD 45	Start with voice of those affected. Important to advocate to all colleagues. Need 25 senate votes, # house votes and the governor to pass legislation into law. Paid lobbyists understand. You need to email and call over and over and not just once and don’t let up.
1:00.00 hr - 1:01.00 hr	Rep. Amy Wallen, LD 48	Important to hear from all sectors. We organize ourselves. Need to hear from faith leaders, business owners, Chambers of Commerce. Loudest voice is often the only one heard.
1:01.00 hr - 1:02.30 hr	Rep. My-Linh Thai, LD 41	Important to bring people who do not speak English. They have a story to tell. Legislature needs to learn to be patient and what it is like to need interpretation to communicate.
1:02.45 hr 1:04.25 hr	Rep. Bill Ramos, LD 5	More voices and those you don’t expect. The solution is people on all sides to come together. Stories are how this policy affects my personal life or my neighbor’s life. Learn from other people.

1:04.28 hr - 1:05.43 hr	Sen. Patty Kuderer, LD 48	Don't be shy about requesting meetings. Remote allows us to be more accessible. Come with solutions. Lived experience testimonials are good information from which to make good public policy.
1:05.43 hr - 1:05.55 hr	Michael Ramos	Pastor Kristin put a third question in the chat. <i>Q3: How important is it for you to hear from others who live outside your legislative district?</i>
1:05.55 hr - 1:07.13 hr	Sen. Patty Kuderer, LD 48	Very important! Policy affects all the people in the state. All interested stakeholders at the table. Think outside the box. Definition of insanity – thinking the same way over and over and expecting a different result. Congregant shelter model is not effective for people experiencing homelessness. Thank you all for your generosity of time, insight and care for people.
1:08.00 hr - 1:10.16 hr	Karen Studders	We did not have time today to cover “The Bridge.” The Eviction Moratorium was supported by so many congregations and expired June 30 th ; some evictions have started. The Bridge is not an eviction moratorium – it is to allow the programs in each county time to become operational. WLIHA’s agenda aligned with EIG’s “Keep People Housed” campaign so we joined the WLIHA coalition. Here to discuss why it is important to work in coalitions is WLIHA and then Michael will discuss the role of the faith community in coalitions.
1:10.16 hr - 1:15:19 hr	Caroline, WLIHA, Director of Organizing	EIG/CCGS’ campaign to Keep People Housed is amazing. Partnership with John Stovall and Michele Thomas, Director of Policy. You all stepped up. It made a huge difference to East King County legislators. Coalitions are important. Need numbers. Relationships with organizations. You work from wisdom, compassion and love, different than intellectual. See love. 3 Goals: (1) End homelessness. (2) Thai’s definition of home as a place where belong, accepted, (3) Kuderer’s home is essential. You have it within you. Appreciate lived experience in congregations – they have solutions. You built power by bringing all voices, collective vision and passion to the legislature. Work with the Resident Action Plan (RAP). You come from respect for one another and of all stakeholders. Makes it effective coalition. EIG had a huge impact. Put link in the chat for The Bridge. Next Friday Statewide all. We need all of you.
1:15:19 hr - 1:19:11 hr	Michael Ramos	Beautiful. Love and building power is our collective work together. So much of our effort as faith community is breaking down barriers. Once barrier is that faith and political processes don’t mix. This is artificial boundary. Engage in politics. We are people of principles and values. Faith community brings integrity to a public process for the common good and those we love. Take to heart and engage members of our own congregations. We’ve had a good experience. We need to engage our members to participate. We want their full voices represented. Takes organizing and time. We have a limited amount of time, resources and energy. What opportunity do we have to build collective power? Alone we can do very little. Together we are more powerful. Saw you in action on legislation, eviction moratoriums and The Bridge. To act on behalf of people we love to build bridges. Let our circles grow with our own commitment, insight and heart. Relationships with one another. Grow together.

1:19:11 hr	Karen Studders	Thank you everyone! If you are new to the team, put your name, congregation, phone and email into the chat. EIG typically meets 2nd or 3 rd W or Th of the month from noon – 2 pm; meeting virtually on Zoom for foreseeable future.
1:20:00-1:26:00	Kevin, Michael, Patty, Kristin, Mary-Alyce, Joshua	Gratitude for EIG’s successful work together to “ <i>Keep People Housed</i> ” in East/North King County and throughout Washington State! Congratulations on Pastor Kristin’s ordination.
1:30:00		Close

Quotes from the Celebration:

“Home is where a person belongs, is accepted and feels safe.”

– Repr. My-Linh Thai

“Home is the foundation of who we are and is an essential need, unlike a car or computer. Housing provides stability, security and is the base from which all flows.”

Sen. Patty Kuderer

“[With the passage of HB 1220] Local government must pay attention to affordable housing and shelter in their cities and counties – this is a fundamental shift in land use planning in Washington State.”

– Rep. Larry Springer

“Rent affordability differs by municipality. In Redmond the average 2 BR rent is \$3,000/month. This the cost of a typical mortgage! Affordable housing needs to be tied to local medium income. The question is “affordable” for whom and where.”

– Sen. Manka Dhingra

“Keeping people housed is cheaper and better than providing them housing after they experience homelessness. Set up systems so people don’t lose their housing.”

– Rep. Bill Ramos

“Making housing part of the Growth Management Act concentrates growth and supports our communities. We believe in communities with housing for all members - sober housing and supporting elders to be able to age in their communities.”

– Rep. Amy Walen

“We are proud of the work you do on our behalf and look forward to the work we can do together.”

– Michael Ramos

“Legislation will be just words on paper if it doesn’t work on the ground. Implementation is the second step.”

Sen. Patty Kuderer