



March 6, 2019

The Honorable Mayor David A. Condon
Spokane City Hall
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Mayor Condon:

I am writing today on behalf some of our most vulnerable constituents that we both represent in our capacity as elected officials. Our homeless population continues to face extreme temperatures where their life and limb are endangered. I spent this past Saturday evening at two of our warming shelters to better understand the situation with my own eyes and ears. I experienced the best of what our city offers, as well as, our collective failure. I witnessed amazing volunteers providing food, care and affection for our most forgotten. I saw those running the shelters stretched thin but maintaining order and structure so people could have a warm place to lay their heads. I also saw one of the most horrific and extreme cases of frostbite you could imagine to hands and feet of a person.

I know the City of Choice has a big heart and if elected officials, non-profits, businesses and citizens put our heads together, we can find solutions to put all people first and make certain nobody is left out in the cold to die. I look forward to engaging with you and our City Council on big ideas with real solutions to our most complex public policy problems around housing and healthcare. For example, I very much would like to explore the opportunity for state capital assistance for an all-day shelter for single men who are unable to find services.

However, today I write out of one of the most pressing needs, that in your capacity as Mayor, you can address with immediate action. It is my understanding that all contracts for the warming shelters end on March 31, and there are no contracts to continue services after that. I ask that if there is a plan you communicate it, and if there is no plan that you take immediate and emergency action to ensure continuity of services one of our most at risk populations. Mayor Condon, I attend an annual homeless memorial where we recognize all the homeless individuals who passed away. I know you share a commitment to all of our community members to ensure the City of Choice is a place where all have the choice to survive regardless of the severity and harshness of our weather, and that we do everything in our power to make sure no additional names are called in that ceremony due to inaction.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus Riccelli".

Representative Marcus Riccelli
Washington State House of Representatives
3rd Legislative District – Spokane

CC: Spokane City Council