



City of Bellingham

Dear Neighbor,

The City of Bellingham is planning to purchase the property at 2020 Pacific Street, the former site of PTLA Property Management. You are receiving this letter because you own, operate a business, or live in property nearby. We also emailed this information to your email address on file with the City's Finance Department on Monday, May 4.

What will go there?

This will be the site for a permanent, service-focused day center where community members who are unhoused can access services and resources. The day center will serve about 50 people and will be run by a non-profit community services provider. Most people will be transported to and from the day center by service providers. The day center operator will have the skills and resources to connect guests with services, such as mental health care, substance use treatment, and housing case management.

When will the day center be open?

We expect to open the day center in the fall of 2026. It will likely be open seven days a week during daytime hours year-round.

Our good neighbor pledge

The property will be fenced, and the day center operator will monitor and secure the area, ensure guests stay on the property during operating hours, and ensure guests leave the property after hours. Contact information will be posted to report concerns if this is ever not the case. Like similar services, we will work with the operator, nearby property owners and residents, service providers, and law enforcement to safely integrate it into the area. As we've done for the Way Station and Lighthouse Mission, we will propose a shelter protection zone, where sitting, lying, or camping on public rights-of-way and in vehicles is prohibited. These zones increase safety, reduce negative impacts, and provide for monitoring and enforcement by police when necessary.

Why is this needed?

Currently, there is no dedicated place in Whatcom County for people who are unhoused to go during the day. There are 815 people experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County, 82% of whom live in Bellingham, according to the 2025 Point-in-Time Count. This is a timely project. Many people who are unhoused spend time at the Central Library, which is scheduled to close for renovations this fall. The new day center will provide a more appropriate option.

Meet with us in-person

Nearby property owners, business owners, and neighborhood residents can meet with City leaders to ask questions and get more information.

- **When:** Wednesday, May 13, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Where:** City of Bellingham Public Works – Pacific Street Operations Center, 2221 Pacific Street, Room 111 and 114 – entrance on Carolina Street. This building is ADA accessible.

Questions about the meeting? Need language assistance or other accommodations?

Please email Jason Korneliussen at jpkorneliussen@cob.org.