

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
C/O 4534 UNIVERSITY WAY NE
SEATTLE, WA 98105
udistrictcommunitycouncil.org

March 8, 2023

The Honorable **Bruce Harrell**, Mayor
City of Seattle
P O Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Re: Public Restroom in the U District

Dear Mayor Bruce Harrell,

For over 50 years, the U District Community Council (UDCC) has effectively represented the interests of residents, workers, property owners, and students of the University District. A public restroom has been a neighborhood goal for well over a decade and several pending development projects are in a position to make space available for it. With your help, we believe we can raise funding for its ongoing maintenance.

Public restroom facilities were not incorporated into the U District light rail station although there remains an *urgent* need for public access to restroom facilities and our community has advocated for the placement of a 'Portland Loo' within two blocks of the station, in the building above, or in the small parks planned nearby. This is important because:

- Our ability to respond to a universal biological need is a basic human right.
- Public toilets enable us to be physically active and enjoy new experiences when away from home.
- Public toilets help us get out of cars and onto our feet, our bicycles and mass transit.

We have collected **144 signatures** and received **490 votes** in support at our engagement booth at this year's U District Streetfair from folks who support this project. In support, the City University Community Advisory Committee (CUCAC) adopted a resolution asking the University of Washington to install a public bathroom at the pending building above the U District light rail station (3rd busiest station in Link system).

Last year, the U District Partnership cleaned up **792 human waste incidents** within the BIA boundaries; most of those were within a block of University Way NE, and believe this is only a fraction of the incidents that many neighbors take care of themselves.

We ask the City to explore the feasibility of placing a public restroom in the heart of the U District to serve the needs of our urban center and its diverse neighbors. The UDCC is prepared to collaborate with you on this worthy and timely project.

Thank you,


Cory Crocker, President

cc: Councilmember Alex Pedersen - 4th District
Councilmember Andrew Lewis - 7th District, Chair of Public Assets & Homelessness
Don Blakeney, Director, U District Partnership
Jeanette Henderson, University of Washington - Real Estate
Dr. Faisal Khan, Director, Public Health of Seattle & King County