

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

September 11, 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,

On Sunday, The Seattle Times' front page featured a story on the urgent need for public restrooms in our city, and citing as an example our U 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 now collected **1,378 votes** in support at our engagement booth at this year's U District Streetfair and **256 petition signatures** from folks who want this project to be realized. Furthermore, 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 (4th busiest station in Link system).

Each year, the U District Partnership cleans up **hundreds of human waste incidents** within the BIA boundaries; most of those were within a block of University Way NE, and we 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. Our community has completed a decade of public outreach and research into viable options. We now need your leadership to make it happen.

Thank you,



**Cory Crocker**, President

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