



MARK OZIAS, District 1, Chair
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
BILL PEACH, District 3

Board of Clallam County Commissioners

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Jim Jones, Jr. County Administrator

16 May 2017

Pennies For Quarters
Matthew Rainwater
P.O. Box 1705
Port Angeles, WA 98362

RE: Pennies For Quarters efforts to end veteran homelessness

Dear Pennies For Quarters,

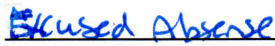
The Clallam County Commissioners recognize the sacrifices made for its citizens by the men and women that served in all branches of the Armed Forces. We further recognize that for various reasons there are tens of thousands of homeless veterans living in the United States, and that there are hundreds that have been documented living within Clallam County.

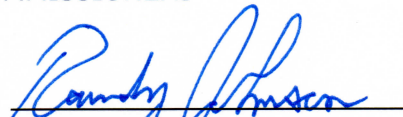
With that knowledge, we support Pennies For Quarters in their efforts to end veteran homelessness in Clallam County. We believe that the concept of Housing First, as adopted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, is instrumental in helping the homeless become productive members of the community. Combined with the comprehensive behavioral, family and substance abuse counseling programs that are available in our area, the prospect of declaring zero homeless veterans is a goal we feel is achievable and would be proud to claim.


The costs associated with the homeless range from \$2,414 extra per hospitalization due to longer stays to \$14,740 average cost per substance abuser not in treatment to \$20,000 annual average per prison bed. There are many case studies of how being proactive in addressing homelessness saves taxpayers money.

Homelessness is an issue in our county and we thank the Pennies For Quarters Board of Directors for their passion and their desire to assist in improving the lives of those veterans who need a hand up. We wish them the best of luck in their efforts.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mark Ozias, Chair


Randy Johnson


Bill Peach