



Follow Up the PSHA Public Hearing

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To: Central Houghton Neighborhood Association <centralhoughton@gmail.com>

Cc: Kurt Triplett <KTriplett@kirklandwa.gov>, James Lopez <JLopez@kirklandwa.gov>, David Wolbrecht <DWolbrecht@kirklandwa.gov>

Thank you, Larry, for your recent message and your and the neighborhood associations' continued engagement on this matter. I hope this message finds you well.

I recommend that you and other members of the neighborhood associations keep working with City staff to provide your input on this phase of the process, which is the finalization of the Permanent Supportive Housing Agreement with King County. Jim, David, and Don keep me and other councilmembers well informed concerning comments, questions, and suggestions they're receiving as part of their lengthy community outreach efforts over the past 12 months, including the special meetings they've held with the neighborhood associations and their many small-group meetings, 1-on-1 calls, and more. And, of course, the Council has held numerous town halls, listening sessions, and public hearings during that same period. And, my colleagues and I on the Council read all of the comments, emails, and letters that we receive from proponents and opponents, and we discuss our shared concerns, if any, with Kurt and Jim so that those shared concerns can be addressed in discussions with the County.

I saw an email response this afternoon from David inviting you and the other neighborhood association members to contact him with further comments, questions, or suggestions. I hope you take David up on that offer.

Also, I know that you and the members of the neighborhood associations want the Permanent Supportive Housing to be a success – like the County, the City Council, and our City staff. We all know we have neighbors who, in order to be safe and find stability, first need a permanent home. I love that Kirkland can be a part of these kinds of efforts and solutions, and the Council and staff are putting in a lot of hours to help ensure that the foundation for success is solid. And, I know that the hardest work – but also the most rewarding work – is the work that Kirkland is going to be doing to welcome our new neighbors – supporting those who are recovering or fleeing violence and providing a loving, safe, and welcoming community for them. The City knows that its residents are excited to be part of those efforts, programs, and events. Councilmembers have a ton of ideas, and we've also heard tons of ideas from our neighbors. If you and other members have ideas – especially ideas for sustained programming that brings new and old residents together – the City would love to hear them.

Thanks, again, for your engagement!

Neal

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