



September 28, 2017

City of Seattle
Sam Assefa, Director OPCD
Kathy Nyland, Director Dpt of Neighborhoods

Re: Amendments to Comprehensive Plan to Facilitate MHA Up Zones

Your departments have determined that amendments are needed to a number of elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan related to proposed MHA up zones. The changes concern neighborhood plan elements incorporated in the comprehensive plan regarding single family zoning in urban villages. Two of the impacted neighborhood plans are Fremont and Wallingford. (As we wrote on March 31, Wallingford is of great interest to the FNC due to the large up zones proposed for East Fremont, inside the Wallingford UV.)

Your departments have jointly scheduled two public meetings concerning these proposed changes to the comprehensive plan. In the course of trying to obtain information and have a productive conversation with your departments regarding these changes and the public meetings, I and residents of East Fremont/West Wallingford have been repeatedly ignored and, when not ignored, rebuffed as to the City's plans and intentions and process. It appears no one from the City plans to attend either FNC or Wallingford Community Council meetings prior to the October 26 session where 5 different neighborhoods will be in attendance.

The FNC board has asked me to convey to you our strong support for these specific requests for the conduct of the October 26 session:

- There should be breakout space for each neighborhood, with adequate space to hear in a noisy environment, and with sufficient City staff to take notes;
- City note taking should be on large easels visible to attendees;
- City employees should bring copies of the impacted neighborhood plans—or at least the affected sections—with indications of the desired language changes; and
- City employees should be prepared to explain how this process fits with the HALA MHA processes conducted to date, including an explanation of how the City views the changes affecting the analyses in the June DEIS. In this regard, please review FNC's March 31 letter.

In my communications with the city, on behalf of the FNC and as a long time resident of Fremont, I have repeatedly raised concerns about the City's segmented review of the proposed MHA up zones and their impacts. The City has yet to clearly explain the overarching legal framework. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan were not included in the MHA DEIS under "Required Approvals."

We continue to seek the City's meaningful engagement with Fremont, Wallingford, and every impacted neighborhood and community in Seattle so that together we can develop a more thoughtful plan that will yield a better outcome when applying HALA (and/or rezoning) to all of our neighborhoods. At the least, more openness in communication about the City's plans and the need for specific actions would be appreciated.

Far more preferable would be a process wherein the City presents the proposed changes to each community council and asks for consideration and approval or other formal feedback prior to presenting the matter to the City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby Thaler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Toby Thaler, President
Fremont Neighborhood Council

Cc:

Mayor Tim Burgess
City Council: Chairs of PLUZ, Housing Neighborhoods & Finance, and Sustainability and
Transportation
City Attorney
Wallingford Community Council