



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Office of Planning and Community Development

Samuel Assefa, Director

January 12, 2017

Rene' Commons

Director

The West Seattle Junction Neighborhood Organization: JuNO

Dear Rene:

Thank you for your letter regarding community outreach and engagement regarding the Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) and Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA). I appreciate you sharing your perspective on the City's effort to address what I believe to be one of the most pressing issues our community faces.

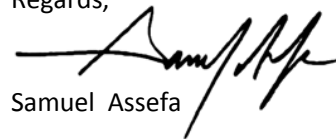
While I recognize that the City can always do more, we have worked conscientiously to offer many opportunities for the neighborhood to learn about HALA and MHA, and to weigh in. With regard to implementing zoning changes that create additional affordable housing, the initial draft maps were released to the public in mid-October last year and have been the subject of significant citywide community engagement and discussion ever since. In West Seattle, we have held at least 7 community meetings to provide information and to collect feedback. We anticipate many additional opportunities for the public to learn about the initial draft proposal, to share their perspectives, to see other alternatives to the initial draft proposal, and to weigh in on how these alternatives respond to the community priorities and concerns. We look forward to additional public meetings, open houses, and design workshops, both across the City and in your neighborhood, as we move forward in 2017.

We also continue to collect online comments at hala.consider.it. Of course, additional public process including environmental review, and City Council public hearings will take place before any zoning changes needed to implement MHA are made.

We do appreciate the opportunity to meet with as many community groups as possible, and I am pleased that Nicolas Welch of my staff was able to speak with JuNO. Regarding your request for me to speak at your event on January 17th my schedule would not allow due to prior commitments. Unfortunately, my staff who are working on HALA are tied up with a similar community meeting previously scheduled for the 17th. As you might expect, there are numerous other community groups across the city that have extended similar invitations, and we will continue to devote our finite staff resources to reaching as many stakeholders in as many neighborhoods as possible before we schedule a second meeting with the same organization.

Again, thank you for your invitation and for sharing your perspective.

Regards,



Samuel Assefa



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