



City Neighborhood Council

700 Fifth Ave, Suite 1700, PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649

August 13, 2016

City Councilmember Tim Burgess, Chair, Affordable Housing, Neighborhoods & Finance Committee
Seattle City Council / PO Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025

RE: City Neighborhood Council Meeting Request

Dear Councilmember Burgess and Committee Members:

As you know, the City Neighborhood Council (CNC) is comprised of volunteer representatives from Seattle's thirteen Neighborhood District Councils who devote their time and energy to working with the city and their neighborhoods on critical issues. Most urgently, the CNC requests a meeting with your Committee to discuss the Mayor's Executive Order of July 13th to form a new Community Involvement Commission and how we can all work together to discuss this issue further. Several points worthy of a broader conversation are:

- 1) **Timing** - The Mayor's Executive Order was announced 2 days prior to DoN's Final Response to City Council SLI # 18-2-A-1 & SLI # 20-1-A-1, from November 15th, 2015. DoN's final response did not provide proposed recommendations to improve and expand outreach and engagement and only listed next steps outlined in the Executive Order. Because the report did not provide possible recommendations for improvements, neighborhood volunteers are only able to respond to the Executive Order but not the process;
- 2) **Budget** – the Mayor may include the revised Resolution and the new Ordinance as part of his September 26 proposed budget, which is not enough time to either consider the budget implications or for broader discussion between his staff, the community and the City Council;
- 3) **Collaborative Process** - concerns have been expressed from numerous Neighborhood District Councils and their members across the city regarding the lack of broader input in what appears to be a top down approach. The 'Original' Resolution 27709 provided the City and leaders one year to collaborate and implement the elements of the Resolution. This is in contrast to the Mayor's Executive Order 2016-06 which gives DoN 75 days to draft new legislation and hold a (less than meaningful) public process. If the goal of the Executive Order is to "implement inclusive and equitable outreach and engagement practices," shouldn't the initial crafting of this vital legislation actually meet the goal as well? We believe so and encourage the City Council and the Mayor to work with community on this important work;
- 4) **Numerous questions** - remain unanswered, for example, it is unknown how the Neighborhood Matching Fund will be integrated into the new Commission structure, as well as Neighborhood Park & Street Fund.

The CNC recognizes important changes are necessary to ensure all of Seattle's citizens are afforded a voice in shaping their future. Our members have been actively discussing what the process might look like for years and would love an opportunity to meet with your Committee and DON to discuss some proposals. If the City plans to dissolve its 40-year relationship with the Neighborhood District Council structure, a nationally recognized model born from the need to address community and neighborhood priorities, next steps should be of a collaborative and community oriented nature.

Page 2

City Councilmember Tim Burgess, Chair, Affordable Housing, Neighborhoods & Finance Committee
Seattle City Council / PO Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025

RE: City Neighborhood Council Meeting Request

Finally, rushing forward with very little discussion or collaboration could most likely result in unintended consequences, therefore we hope your Committee will take the time to invite Director Nyland and Neighborhood District Coordinators, the Mayor's staff and the CNC Executive team to discuss this matter together.

Thank you for considering the City Neighborhood Council's request. We hope you will place the highest priority to these issues and are more than willing to arrange a date that works best for everyone.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Laine Ross, Co-Chair
City Neighborhood Council



Catherine Weatbrook, Co-Chair
City Neighborhood Council

C: Seattle Mayor Ed Murray
Kathy Nyland, Director, Department of Neighborhoods