



April 24, 2018

Councilmember Debora Juarez
City of Seattle
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

SUBJECT: Aurora Licton Urban Village (ALUV) - 2018 Priorities

Councilmember Juarez:

On behalf of the Aurora Licton Urban Village (ALUV), I want to express our appreciation for all of the support which you and your staff have provided our organization. We appreciate your leadership and insight as ALUV works towards its mission of developing a pedestrian-safe, visually vibrant, economically sound, livable and welcoming urban village.

As discussed, ALUV members recently held a strategic planning session. The purpose of the strategic planning session was to prioritize ALUV's priorities so that we can efficiently resource time and efforts towards specific areas of concern. This letter is to briefly inform you of the outcome of our strategic planning effort and summarize your recommendations from our meeting on April 6, 2018.

ALUV has identified four main community priorities for 2018. These include (in no particular order):

- 1. Land Use/Zoning/MHA:** ALUV will monitor and continue to support of the City's Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) program including the proposed zoning map along Aurora Avenue North from Commercial 1 and Commercial 2 to Neighborhood Commercial. This change is essential to achieving the type of neighborhood serving, residential urban village business district envisioned in the City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan.

While ALUV members have so far provided written testimony on the MHA program, ALUV intends to provide oral comment at a future public hearings to respond to issues that may arise between now and then. Additionally, we will help coordinate support from neighboring groups, residents and businesses affected by the proposed zoning changes.

- 2. Community Space:** Publicly accessible community space continues to be a scarce if not a non-existent resource in the Aurora Licton Urban Village (ALUV). We intend to explore strategies and ideas for the City's consideration so as to increase short and long-term community space opportunities in ALUV. One long-term idea includes incentivizing new private development proposals to add community space along Aurora Avenue. Per your guidance, we will contact our county and state representatives to gain support and funding for a community center.
- 3. Community Vision:** ALUV intends to work towards strengthening the community vision for the Aurora Avenue corridor. Some of this effort will build on the 2017 Office of Economic Development (OED) grant ALUV received that led to the preparation of a business district visioning report. In addition to direct outreach with businesses, the grant included a resident survey which led to over 200 responses. ALUV has received a OED grant award for 2018 that will allow us to continue building on the 2017 effort.
- 4. Aurora Avenue:** ALUV will join with other community organizations along the Aurora Corridor to encourage civic investments in the safety and design of the corridor, one of the major entrances to the City. It could stimulate economic and housing development in the area, begin to address the inequities of the disadvantaged neighborhoods through which it passes, bridge the moat it creates between neighborhoods, and enhance the safety and environment for both pedestrians and motorists. It would enhance Aurora and its surrounding neighborhoods thus making the area more livable.

Finally, we want to mention a few other topics that arose during our strategic planning effort. We will be working on these during 2018 as well.

- **Public Safety.** ALUV recognizes that public safety is a high priority for the community. The business and resident surveys mentioned above confirm that public safety is a high concern on the part of both the business community and residents.

While ALUV has continued to coordinate with the Police Department (e.g. ALUV is a member of the North Precinct Advisory Committee), we believe that long-term improvements to public safety will be facilitated over time by activating the neighborhood and business district with more pedestrians through site and building design that offers more “eyes on the street.”

- **Neighborhood Design Guidelines.** ALUV has long advocated for neighborhood design guidelines. Neighborhood design guidelines are even more important and relevant given the higher density in residential urban villages envisioned under the MHA program. Neighborhood design guidelines will implement the building form and site design that will provide eyes on the street to address public safety mentioned above.

At the suggestion of Councilmember Rob Johnson, ALUV has been preparing its own neighborhood design guidelines patterned closely on the neighborhood design guidelines format implemented by the City of Seattle. We intend to present these to the City later this year. While we recognize that development of neighborhood design guidelines require a broader public process, ALUV's goal is to catalyze this process by proposing a set of neighborhood design guidelines that can then be used by the City when considering its future work programs. We expect to have a draft completed in June that we will provide to you and CM Johnson.

- **Public Art.** ALUV is researching additional public art opportunities to build on the art installation at the Licton Springs Village exterior fence and to coincide with (or follow soon thereafter) the 102nd Street pedestrian bridge art installation. This additional public art effort will likely involve investigating funding sources, including City grant programs. Thank you for contact information regarding grants.

ALUV also intends to continue its involvement in the District 5 Community Network and support other efforts of interest to ALUV including the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, as well as much needed efforts to improve public safety infrastructure to meet the North Precinct's needs. We hope that this update is helpful.

Thank you again for your work on behalf on ALUV, District 5 and the City of Seattle.

Sincerely,



Leah Anderson

Cc: BrynDel Swift, Sabrina Bolieu, Mercedes Fernandez, Sharon Holt, Ryan DiRaimo, Dave Osaki, Susan Larrance, Jan Brucker, Rob Fellows.