

SISLEYVILLE

Good morning! I'm Pete Holmes, your City Attorney, here to announce new steps we are taking to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood. And to thank you for your patience.

So let's get to it: The City of Seattle now holds judgments totaling \$3.3 million against Hugh & Martha Sisley, encumbering all of their four dozen decrepit, area properties. These judgments are accruing interest at \$800 per day.

Next week, this ordinance [hold up copy] will be submitted to City Council. It authorizes me to "credit bid" some of the judgment principal at the foreclosure sale of these parcels [gesture toward nearby properties], and to transfer title to the City's [parks department]. Should bidding at the foreclosure sale for some reason exceed fair market value, the ordinance further authorizes exercise of the City's power of eminent domain to condemn and acquire the property for fair compensation.

Let me emphasize that we prefer to collect the City's judgments and take title to this new open space for the community through voluntary transfers. The Sisleys have an option for now to transfer this property to partially satisfy the judgments, but we will not wait if they fail to agree to this transfer; we will continue with the compulsory process I just described until the judgments have been fully satisfied.

So, how did we get here? About two years ago, I directed my office to change our enforcement strategies to break the "slumlord's economic model," to call the Sisleys' bluff. We would no longer compromise accrued penalties and interest in exchange for belated, partial performance, and moved to defend and enforce each and every notice of violation issued by the hard working code enforcers from our City's Department of Planning & Development. Thanks to Senior Assistant City Attorney Patrick Downs, we held firm all the way up to the Washington Supreme Court to perfect these valuable judgments. Michael Shiosaki of our parks department will explain how its expertise was utilized to identify the ideal property to secure for the Roosevelt community. And with the mayor and city council's support and

approval, we can now use this general fund asset to preserve valuable open space for a community that has suffered so long.

In closing, I am proud of the tremendous interdepartmental cooperation that produced the innovative solution we present here today. We are already employing this approach to decaying, crime-breeding properties elsewhere in the Central District, West Seattle, and even with commercial targets Downtown. Stay tuned for further announcements regarding a new Regulatory Enforcement & Economic Justice in the very near future!

And now, I want to introduce our Mayor, Ed Murray.