

March 12 and 13, 2009

Question: What is the most important housing issue to address in your community?

- Pushing families out of their neighborhoods
- Father figures
- Healing cultural differences/bridging the gap
- Homelessness
- Pricing
- Gang related activity around the housing
- Home cleanliness (too many drug houses)
- Language barriers
- Homelessness
- Pricing (High rent, mortgage and utility)
- Gangs in and around community and households

Question: Who would be affected most by rising rents and home prices? Who should be trying to help people who are being displaced as a new development follows the opening of light rail?

- Light Rail next to homes. (Is it going to be running all night? Is it going to bring more transients around our neighborhood? How loud is it going to be?)
- (Affect) African Americans
- (Affect) the community
- (Affect) Students
- (Affect) Any and Everyone
- (Affect) "I'm not informed on the Light Rail. I think it will affect everyone, really"
- I don't know much about it – are buses still going to be running by the line?
- (Affect) poorer families with lower incomes
- (Affect) Large low income families
- (Affect) Renters and potential home owners
- (Affect) Lower and Middle Class
- (Help) Government
- (Help) Project developers/organizers
- (Help) ourselves
- (Help) Businesses near the light rail
- Light Rail next to homes – is it going to raise housing prices near the line? Will it be safe?
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Question: What types of goods, services, and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business community and accessible to the community?

- Hotlines for youth
- More hands on programs
- Other extra activities other than sports
- Parks, more green grassy areas and art sculptures
- Less family-fun "mini-marts"
- Noticeable employment centers
- Jobs with scheduling that fits teenagers

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- More mainstream clothing stores
- More clothing stores
- Extremely nice library/learning center
- More programs that relate directly to the youth in our community
- A place where you can build a hobby
- New and improved parks and recreation areas
- We need less corner stores!

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in the city and what parks do you go to? If you don't go to parks, what change would you make in order to use the parks?

- (Use) Walk dog
- (Use) meet up with friends
- (Use) play sports
- (Use) Peace picnics
- High Point Community Center
- Rainier Community Center
- Rotary Boys & Girls Club
- Seward Park
- Van Asselt Community Center
- Need more water attractions (like in Renton)
- More basketball courts like Van Asselt (glass hoops/color court)
- More community involved events

Question: What services are important to you as your neighborhood grows?

- Teen safe havens (different from the average community centers)
- More youth, drug and alcohol treatment/awareness centers
- More youth services
- Youth community crime prevention
- Employment
- Youth bilingual center
- Youth groups that understand teenagers
- Groups with fun learning activities
- Youth gang prevention services

April 7, 2009

Meeting held at Cleveland High School

Question: What types of goods, services, and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Black businesses, youth center, parks, and businesses that are going to hire people in the community.
- Cheap food places, but healthy.
- Affordable grocery stores.
- We need more jobs for youth, especially seniors (high school). We have nothing to fall on if we're not going to college.
- Training for all different jobs--electrical, painters, etc.
- Black businesses; youth programs; stores.
- Services for poor families.
- Arcade; affordable stores; youth programs.
- Stores; mini mall.

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in the city and what parks do you go to? If you don't go to city parks, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- Teen center and more jobs.
- I usually go to the Boys and Girls and workout and play pool and chill.
- Mount Rainier I think it should be more fun (of a) thing and need to be safer. What if a kids walked off. Keep the bathroom clean.
- Indoor and Outdoor Pools. No double rims. Concession stands. New bathrooms. More lights.
- More summer jobs for youth (teens).
- I stay at home because a lot of the parks and community centers don't have anything in English. And there really isn't stuff for artist or authors.
- Community Centers I don't go to as much, but when it gets warm I'll go to the park.
- To play baseball.
- I live in Holly Park and the park over there has terrible building and all of the graffiti by those gang bangers. I think people should treat the park with more respect.
- There should be more community centers and places to make fun for kids.
- A safer environment.

April 7, 2009

Question: What services are important to you as your neighborhood grows? What importance does this growth provide?

- A good service is a store like Zumez and GHY
- It provides good things in town and for rebuilding parks. And more career centers and rents so then we could have more skate parks.
- Outdoor services, food services, job skills services, more rent services and more housing services.
- More summer jobs.
- More chances to learn different languages besides French, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic. Most of my neighbors I think are Korean.
- Peace Security
- The people, the getting along. I think my neighborhood should have more nicer playgrounds, better basketball court, the high schools in Seattle should have more educations, books, and more stuff like more better after school projects.
- There will be no health care; transportation.
- Youth activities.
- Link rail
- Neighborhood watch.

Question: Who would be affected most by rising rents and home prices? Who should be trying to help from being displaced as new development follows light rail opening?

- My family and those who are already struggling.
- Minimum wage workers won't be able to afford housing or food for their kids and also Blacks. We the future should be trying to help.
- My family.
- Less housing for middle class and lower class people.
- Everybody who has money--income isn't good enough.
- Mothers and fathers. People that can't afford a lot.
- The minimum wage workers would be affected the most because they already aren't making enough.
- The people that live close & people that don't have al little bit of money.
- Our families are affected.
- Minorities, the lower class and maybe the middle class.
- Low income people, light the neighborhood.

April 7, 2009

Question: What is the most important housing issue to address or solve in your neighborhood?

- The cost of living--people are already losing their homes.
- How the "state" is trying to build new condos that are more expensive and move the Blacks out to the South end of Seattle.
- The cost of living.
- Lower mortgages.
- New, expensive condos.
- Condos in area.
- The cost of buying a house.
- With the link light rail everything is going to rise in price and move all the diverse people out of the community.
- No more low income housing in my neighborhood. There's no affordable housing in my community anymore.
- Light rail.

April 24, 2009

Meeting held at Cleveland High School

Question: What is the most important housing issue to address or solve in your neighborhood?

- Less housing so close together.
- People might be built of things and taking people out of houses.
- location and congestion
- Killing each other from our neighborhood
- Healing cultural differences and bridging the gap. Pushing families out of their neighborhoods.
- Price to buy housing is rising badly.
- Gang-related activity around the neighborhood. Also, the rent is too high.
- Domestic disturbances.
- Gang banging. The rent. Also, the people who fight for no reason.
- Cultural differences.
- Father figures not present.
- Smoking in public. Drunk people shouting.
- They are moving everyone out of the neighborhood to housing South. Homes without fathers.
- Lots of pests living n our home and cultural differences.
- Cultural differences.
- Cultural differences.
- Cultural differences. Theft and gang violence.
- The most important issue is violence, gangs and stealing.
- Cultural gaps.
- Neighborhood interaction.
- The important thing is they are raising home prices and getting a lot of Black people out of a lot of areas.
- We have to help the homeless and bridge the gap between the cultural differences.
- Bridging the gaps, healing and cultural differences.
- The rent. The link rail is right next to my house.
- Price. We need to come together as a people/community.

Question: Who would be affected most by rising rents and home prices? Who should be trying to help from being displaced as new development follows light rail opening?

- The poorer families. The lower income families because they are not going to be able to afford their homes if rent goes up.
- I think that it should be for people and kids to be in activities and have jobs.
- Working-class people (which in the inner/urban city is 90%). The working class who is consuming the city should be trying to make a change because they bring change.
- The lower income people and it will make me feel bad too.
- Low income families.

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- Government should help. African Americans and students. Resources for homeless.
- Low income families. The light rail program organizers should help because it was their idea.
- Low income families. Government and myself.
- Old People.
- Resources for people in need. My family bills.
- Youth. Large families.
- The Central Area & South Seattle.
- We can't afford to pay rent/mortgage.
- The families. The government.
- The lower class people.
- Everyone. Everyone in the community.
- The civilians; people in the community.
- Families; Government.
- The people that live in those houses are affected. And the students they needed home to live in. The government needs to help.
- Anyone could be affected. The people putting thousands of dollars in projects should be doing other things to better help the communities.
- I'm not informed on the light rail but I think that it will affect everyone really.
- Places where there is a lot of vandalism and they have to help pay for damages.
- People living in housing developments because most people live there for less rent.
- The middle class and Black people. Resources for homeless people. Everyone needs a roof over their head.

Question: What types of goods, services, and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Skate park. A place where skaters and bikers can buy parts for their bikes and boards.
- I would want more teen employment--more places where almost all teens can work.
- I'd like more basketball courts.
- Just more skills from people or more cell phone servers around.
- More jobs. Car dealers, clothing stores, fitness gyms and parks.
- Hotlines for youth; more hands on programs; community center for teenagers; accounting classes and activities more than sports; speak out as youth to youth advisors.
- I don't want to walk 2 miles to find a job. Less family-run mini marts.
- Better employment opportunities for teenagers that fit in our schedules. We have summer school and other programs we are in but we also want/need jobs.
- Markets and more jobs.
- More youth groups or programs to help out teens overcome their obstacles.
- More jobs for youth in the community besides fast food and grocery stores.
- They should have more employment opportunities.
- Good jobs and stores.

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- More jobs and activities.
- Jobs that are accessible. Jobs that teens are capable and reachable for teens in the community.
- People patrolling or securities for safety.
- Youth programs and community centers.
- Jobs for the youth that don't have stable homes and records. We need more interactive and hands on programs.
- Someplace safe for people to work. We eventually need some more inner-city places to work, too. Nothing boring.
- Moms modeling.
- Cleaning trash on the sidewalks and doing food bank services for the homeless and low class people.
- More corner stores. And also more clothing stores in the south end. Everything is so far from us.
- There needs to be more jobs for us. We need money because times are hard. I can do just about anything an adult can. That's how I feel.

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in the city and what parks do you go to? If you don't go to city parks, what change would you want to use the parks more?

- The only park that I go to is Renton Skate Park. I go to only one community center and that is Rainier Beach. The change I would do at Renton skate park is make better restrooms.
- More parks with all types of toys. Also more community centers, Community centers that actually care with workers that want to help kids. More concession stands; New Bathrooms that are always open. Free day camps.
- I would like to make more houses and more basketball concessions stands, bathrooms, free lunch.
- More security involved in the parks; there is too much vandalized property.
- More organizations in/near parks; more less sports related activities around neighborhoods.
- I use city parks for BBQ hang with my family play basketball, people who love about the community.
- Rainier, clubs and parks.
- To make it more accessible with more recreation pools.
- Play pool, hoop...do whatever is provided.
- We need more parks and security.
- Make stuff for us.
- Better equipment, new things.
- Walking, hanging out.
- Hoops.
- Play basketball; we need nets.
- Not enough swimming pools in the community for youth.
- Don't go really.

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- More community events
- Don't go to parks anymore; My cousins hang out there.
- Safer parks for women and children and older people.
- More teen center in our community.
- Don't go no more. Some are dangerous.
- I use the parks a little. No swings allowed.

Question: What services are important to you as your neighborhood grows? What importance does this growth provide?

- Transportation
- Entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurship, more healthy positive programs for girls and boys.
- Bus. Management classes.
- Transportation
- C.C.S.
- That originality stays here and my school.
- Make stuff for us.
- Our own business.
- Our own business.
- Jobs
- I think that there should be more services for the youth because we are the ones that are going to be most leaders of the community
- Don't know. I guess.
- Crime preventions
- Providing jobs for us.
- Schools like Renton Vocational would help but closer to the area.
- Jobs for youth in the community
- For single parents and kids.
- Taking care of us with summer jobs and jobs for the future.
- The services for youth in the community.
- More teen services; better schools; more low income things; programs to help assist with rent/bills; apprenticeship programs for the youth; housing and workforce.

April 16, 2009

Meeting held at Rainier Beach High School – Thursday, April 16, 2008

Transportation

- Many of the students said that they would use light rail once, just to try it. Reasons why they would not use it: it is not convenient, light rail does not go to the destinations that they normally go to (Southcenter Mall, Renton, etc.), scared and paranoid that it will fall over, and safety concerns.
- After we handed out a map of light rail travel times and provided more information about what the light rail is all about, all of the students said they would use it over the slow and smelly bus #7. They liked the idea of extending the light rail line to UW, Northgate, and the east side.
- Majority of the students walk to get to destinations. Like walking for the fresh air, being outside, and for exercise. Had some complaints about sidewalk maintenance.
- They believe that automobiles are faster than using transit or walking, saves time, more convenient, gets you to where you need to go in a direct way, allows you to haul goods, but they also have a good understanding that cars are expensive due to maintenance, gas, and insurance costs, and are bad for the environment – cause of pollution.
- Only of the students rides a bicycle.
- Feelings about traffic: always construction on roads – causes traffic, parents use back roads to avoid congestion, like traffic circles – slows cars down and prevents accidents.

Question: What types of shops, services, jobs would you like to see around the light rail stations:

- Mini-malls
- Trader Joes – or some grocery store that sells organic food (and is closer to neighborhood – Seward Park PCC is too far away to access)
- Need greater variety of banks
- Different kinds of cuisine – teriyaki, subway, fast food restaurants
- A new library (or increase capacity at RB library – more computers and just bigger in general)
- Park or open space instead of all commercial – a place to relax or hang out with friends
- Target
- More places to shop – retail stores
- Movie theater (currently have to go outside of Seattle to watch movies – Southcenter or Renton – will go to Northgate when LR light is extended)
- Want more taco buses (one student, others did not agree)
- Can get rid of Rent-A-Center

Housing:

- The students feel that too many homes have been betting built in recent year, with many of the homes still vacant. They did not think that more housing needed to be

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built in the Rainier Beach neighborhood. There is great housing supply, but no one is buying the new places.

- They do realize the advantage to living near a light rail station (no need to drive as much and better access to the rail), but they also believe that costs will increase, meaning that poor people could not live there.
- One student, from Hong Kong, did not understand why it took so long to build the rail – he compared tunnels being built much quicker than how it happens in the US.
- We talked about living in cities that have more people than Seattle does and what the students thought about more populated cities. One student had lived in Chicago and liked living with more people, more diversity, and better interaction with people from different cultures. Another student, from Hong Kong, thought that everything was different, but with more stress as it is more crowded.
- About half of the students live in single family detached homes and half live in some kind of apartment/duplex. Most students said that they would live in apartment/condo style housing close to the station areas.

Community centers and parks:

- The teen program at the Rainier Beach Community Center has a wide variety of free programs that they participate in.
- They do utilize the parks in the neighborhood, but do not travel too far outside of the neighborhood very often. They hang out with their families and have parties in the parks and play basketball. One student organizes outings to the park for her mentoring program.
- Barnett Park, in the Central District, has good playground equipment for younger kids (which the students still like to play with occasionally). Parks in their neighborhood need better playground equipment for little kids, like a wading pool.
- They do feel that the parks need to be better maintained, cleaned up more frequently. They do not like to see vandalism in their parks (but it is always there – graffiti). They did not know of any dog parks in their neighborhood, but believe people should pick up after their dogs as there is a lot of poo in their neighborhood.
- The parks need better signage to let people know where the parks are.
- Mapes Creek: too much trash – students would be willing to help maintain it by having trash pick-up days. Think that students need to start to get fined for littering; nothing else will stop the students from throwing their trash on the ground. They also think that the people living in the adjacent apartments should help to maintain the pathway.

Important services needed as the neighborhood grows:

- The students think that more businesses in the neighborhood would be a good idea, especially those that provide jobs for high school students.
- Street vendors at the station areas sound cool.
- There should be a community college in the neighborhood or some place where those who have dropped out of high school can go to get an education. Too many people

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hanging out on the streets. Not too many jobs in the community, most people (parents and other adults) have to travel outside of Rainier Beach for work.

- A bigger library is needed, with more computers.

Crime:

- Want the crime to get out of the neighborhood (even though not too many of the recent crime has occurred in Rainier Beach, mainly hear about crime happening in the Othello area).
- Think there should be a crime prevention center in the community.
- Employment opportunities might help to solve problems with crime.
- When the police come to their school, it is never about how to prevent crime; it is only to bust a student. More police would be good in the school and get to know the students.

Gentrification:

- Some of the students recognize how the Central District and Columbia City have changed and is being gentrified. More white people and more restaurants.
- Students did not think too much change would occur in Rainier Beach neighborhood. They did think that more people would move into the community, but it will just be more diverse as people would be attracted to move to SE due to the LR. Do not make the connection that what happened in CC and the CD would happen in Rainier Beach.
- World is about making money.

Negative perception of Rainier Beach:

- The students do not understand why so many people think so negatively about their school and community. Outsiders think that bad stuff happens at their school and parents will not send their kids there.
- The whole area is stereotyped.
- Students have a lot of pride for their school.
- Media never tells positive stories about SE Seattle.
- Light rail will bring more people to Rainier Beach and hope that the new people will see SE Seattle in a different light, more positive.

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Transportation:

- Sidewalks around the school are okay, though there are cracks and uneven slopes.
- They think the pedestrian countdown signals are very helpful when walking to judge amount of time to cross the street.
- Henderson and Cloverdale – they do not like walking in this area (do not feel safe) as the police stop teenagers all the time for no reason. One solution is to have more community members (Neighborhood Watch Groups) to circulate the neighborhood more on foot – more people walking = safer.
- The students did think that more people should ride bikes, but too many bicyclists do not follow traffic rules and makes them more of a danger on the roadway. Students who drive see bikers as a hazard. They do not think installing more bike lanes would promote/encourage students to ride their bicycles to school. One student would ride his bike in Seward Park.
- They walk to restaurants, Safeway, mini-marts, gas stations and Ezell's chicken.
- Streets have poor pavement conditions – too many potholes.

Services in station areas:

- The students would like to see a Target, healthy food stores (like Trader Joe's or Whole Foods), trash cans, pedestrian flags to help people cross the street, vending machines, Sonic, and Quiznos.
- They believe that more job opportunities will be created due to more business development (because of Light Rail) and local neighborhood people should have those jobs (including high school students).
- They would like to see a diversity in businesses and diversity of people.
- Lots of talk about their neighborhood vs. the "rich" neighborhoods – they want Rainier Beach to have all amenities that "rich" communities get. "Rich" meaning Bellevue, Kirkland, Madison area in the CD.

Housing/Displacement:

- They are okay with new housing development, but need to ensure that property taxes will not increase for those already in the neighborhood in fear of displacement.
- More black people moving south (outside of City limits) – cannot afford to live in Seattle – with white people moving back to cities, they are displacing the black people (like what happened in the Central District).
- When black people are forced outside of city limits, they need to travel further for jobs.
- A student's niece's daycare was forced out of their location in the neighborhood due to costs.
- Gangs will start to move into Kent and outside of Seattle as people are displaced.
- The students were not sure how to achieve this, but feel it is important for the people that currently live in the neighborhood to be able to stay in the neighborhood.
- They would want to their future kids to grow up in areas where other families live and in diverse communities – where the neighborhood is "real."

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Parks:

- The students like Seward Park – they use the loop walking trails (one student would bike the trails), they have family gatherings, BBQs, and like to chill out and look at the water. Seward Park does need a new ice cream truck!
- Too much graffiti in parks
- Many of the parks need an upgrade (renovations)
- Would like more programming (like summertime lunches in the park) for students to use the parks more frequently.