

Committee of the Whole, Seattle City Council
Public Hearing, September 9, 1975
Event 3084 – Elaine Ko

ELAINE KO: My name is Elaine Ko and I'm speaking for the Committee for Corrective Action Program in the International District. Umm, first, I'd like...

COUNCILMEMBER RANDY REVELLE: Excuse me, your mailing address.

KO: 416 8th Ave South 98104.

REVELLE: Thank you.

KO: First, I'd like to strongly support Bob Santos demand for housing and re-prioritizing the ID area for money. Before I get into any concrete suggestions and additions to the Resolution, I'd like to make a few statements first for CAP. Umm, the views from CAP are contrary to those who advocated the placement of the stadium next to the International District and Pioneer Square. We speak here in the interest of the residents who never wanted the stadium there in the first. Thus, all these anticipated problems, which these guidelines are supposed to mitigate, we foresaw back in 1971. We feel that the guidelines are written in total disregard for the residents as was as the decision to put the stadium next to the International District and Pioneer Square areas. In reality, the International District will be suffocated by incredible noise, traffic, and air pollution, as well as tourists, no matter how effective these guidelines may read.

Secondly, we'd like to put forth some concrete suggestions to the resolution, and this could be addressed to the City Council and the JHK associates. First, in the assumptions area, it says under "short-range and long-range goals" that go up to 1980 and beyond, nowhere is there any reference to or consideration that there will be any residents left in the International District. Thus, we suggest strongly that you rewrite these assumptions to include the pres--presence of residents and their needs. On page 9, in the socio-economic aspect of the goals and objectives, it says, "preserve community integrity." Again, there is no mention or reference to residents in the International District who--who this the stadium will impact the most. We disagree strongly with the philosophy behind your idea of preservation of the community integrity. On the second point, where it says, "maintain security and safety" and that's it. We would like to add, "maintain security and safety in the interests of the residents from any noise, traffic, and air pollution" and also add, "maintain their permanent residency."

On the third point...I think it's the...[counts in a whisper] 5th point, where it says, "provide police security in high-risk areas." We don't feel we need any more police in this area. The only need we have for police will be to redirect traffic and tourists completely around the International District. So, while the City spends a lot of time working on these resolutions and guidelines with these associates, we feel that they should start putting their words into

practice. The Committee for Corrective Action Program is now working on meeting some of the needs of the residents, which have been neglected for so many years. That is what “community integrity” means to us. “Meeting” that means meeting the critical housing needs, the health needs, and nutrition needs among others. Thus, we strongly urge the City and other government officials to start taking concrete actions towards their primary responsibility. Also, “community integrity” also means to respect the rights of the residents to live where they want and also in the environment they want. We expect the City governments to take--to make significant safeguards to ensure this right.

And finally, we suggest to the associates that are writing up the plan that they set up periodic meetings with the people of the International District and Pioneer Square areas to ensure that all of the points raised tonight will be put into practice. Thank you.

REVELLE: Thank you.