



# City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Department of Planning & Development  
D. M. Sugimura, Director

## CITY OF SEATTLE ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Application Number:** 3005722

**Applicant Name:** Steve Rauf

**Address of Proposal:** 5993 Rainier Avenue S

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into eight unit lots (Unit Lot Subdivision). The construction of townhouses has been approved under Project #6086533. This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots. The existing structures will be removed.

The following approval is required:

**Short Subdivision** – To subdivide one parcel into eight unit lots.  
(Chapter 23.24, Seattle Municipal Code).

**SEPA DETERMINATION:**  Exempt  DNS  MDNS  EIS  
 DNS with conditions  
 DNS involving non-exempt grading or demolition, or involving another agency with jurisdiction.

### BACKGROUND DATA

Zoning: Residential, Multifamily, Lowrise 3 (L-3)

Uses on Site: Two single-family residences and a detached garage.

#### Substantive Site Characteristics:

This 10,422.9 square foot subject site (the “parent lot”) is a rectangular lot that fronts on Rainier Avenue S to the east. The subject site is located within a Residential, Multifamily, Lowrise 3 (L-3) zone that continues to the north and south. The area adjacent to the west and one-half block to the east is zoned Single-Family Residential 5000 (SF5000). The site is not located in any mapped critical areas.

#### Proposal Description:

The applicant proposes to subdivide one 10,422.9 square foot parcel, the “parent lot,” into eight unit lots with the following lot areas: Unit Lot A – 1,337.3 square feet, Unit Lot B – 1,248 square feet, Unit Lot C – 1,278.8 square feet, Unit Lot D – 1,166.2 square feet, Unit Lot E – 1,277.7 square feet, Unit Lot F – 1,325.9 square feet, Unit Lot G - 1,383.7 square feet, and Unit Lot H – 1,405.3 square feet. Vehicular access for required parking for all proposed Unit Lots will be from an Ingress and Egress Easement which runs west from Rainier Avenue S to an area between the proposed structures. Parking

for all unit lots will be provided within the buildings and can be accessed via this easement. Pedestrian access to Unit Lots A, B, C, and D is from frontage on Rainier Avenue S. Pedestrian access for Unit Lots E-H is provided by two pedestrian easements which runs west from Rainier Avenue S along the northern and southern boundary lines of the parent lot to the vehicular easement.

A Master Use Permit to demolish two existing single-family residences, establish a townhouse use, and construct four 2-unit townhouses has been reviewed and approved under Project No. 6086533. The subject of this analysis and decision is limited to the subdivision of land.

Public Comment:

The comment period for this proposal ended on October 11, 2006. During this period, one written comment letter related to this project was received.

**ANALYSIS - SHORT SUBDIVISION**

Pursuant to SMC 23.24.040, the Director shall, after conferring with appropriate officials, use the following criteria to determine whether to grant, condition, or deny a short plat:

1. *Conformance to the applicable Land Use Code provisions;*
2. *Adequacy of access for vehicles, utilities and fire protection, as provided in Section 23.53.005;*
3. *Adequacy of drainage, water supply, and sanitary sewage disposal;*
4. *Whether the public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed division of land;*
5. *Conformance to the applicable provisions of SMC Section 25.09.240, short subdivision and subdivisions in environmentally critical areas;*
6. *Is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees; and*
7. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.045, Unit lot subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouses, cottage housing, clustered housing, or single family housing.*

Summary - Short Subdivision

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments from DPD, Water (SWD), Fire Departments (SFD), Seattle City Light, the Building Plans Examiner, the Drainage Section of DPD, and review by the Land Use Planner, the above cited criteria have been met subject to the conditions imposed at the end of this decision. Detailed discussion of Criterion #7 follows below.

The lots to be created by this short subdivision will meet all minimum standards or applicable exceptions of the set forth in the Land Use Code and are consistent with applicable development standards. As conditioned, this short subdivision can be provided with vehicular access, public and private utilities and access (including emergency vehicles). Adequate provisions for drainage control, water supply, and sanitary sewage disposal have been provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions. The proposal site is not located in an environmentally critical area; therefore SMC 25.09.240 is not applicable; additionally, this regulation does not apply to unit lot subdivisions. Tree and other landscaping requirements were considered under the building permit review. The public use and interest are served by the proposal since all applicable criteria are met and the proposal creates the potential for additional owner-occupied housing opportunities in the City.

**ANALYSIS –UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION (CRITERION #7)**

Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.045, Unit lot subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouses, cottage housing, clustered housing, or single-family housing.

- A. *The unit subdivision provisions of SMC Section 23.24.045 apply exclusively to the unit subdivision of land for townhouses, cottage housing developments, residential cluster developments, and single-family residences in zones where such uses are permitted.*
- B. *Sites developed or proposed to be developed with dwelling units listed in subsection A above, may be subdivided into individual unit lots. The development as a whole shall meet development standards applicable at the time the permit application is vested. As a result of the subdivision, development on individual unit lots may be nonconforming as to some or all of the development standards based on analysis of the individual unit lot, except that any private, usable open space for each dwelling unit shall be provided on the same lot as the dwelling unit it serves.*
- C. *Subsequent platting actions, additions or modifications to the structure(s) may not create or increase any nonconformity of the parent lot.*
- D. *Access easements and joint use and maintenance agreements shall be executed for use of common garage or parking areas, common open space (such as common courtyard space for cottage housing), and other similar features, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*
- E. *A joint use and maintenance agreement has been included on the short plat documents and should also be included on the final documents for recording.*
- F. *Within the parent lot, required parking for a dwelling unit may be provided on a different unit lot than the lot with the dwelling unit, as long as the right to use that parking is formalized by an easement on the plat, as recorded with the Director of King County Development of Records and Elections.*
- G. *The facts that the unit lot is not a separate buildable lot, and that additional development of the individual unit lots may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot shall be noted on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

**Summary - Unit Lot Subdivision**

Review of this application shows that the proposed short subdivision would conform to applicable standards of SMC 23.24.045 subject to the conditions imposed at the end of this decision. The proposed developments are townhouses. The structures, as reviewed under their separate building permits, conform to the development standards for the time the permit application was vested. To assure that future owners have constructive notice that additional development may be limited; the applicant will be required to add a note to the face of the plat that reads as follows: *“The lots created by unit subdivision are not separate building lots. Additional development on any individual lot in this unit subdivision may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot pursuant to applicable provisions of the Seattle Land Use Code.”* A joint use and maintenance agreement will be required as conditioned at the end of this decision.

**DECISION – UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

The proposed Unit Lot Subdivision is **CONDITIONALLY GRANTED**.

**CONDITIONS – UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

*Conditions of Approval Prior to Recording*

The owner(s) and/or responsible party(s) shall:

1. Include the Joint Use/Maintenance Agreement on the final plans which shall include, if needed, the common side sewer and storm drainage that will serve the proposed unit lots.
2. Include any required easement description provided by Seattle City Light on the face of the final plat and in the legal descriptions of the affected Unit Lots.
3. Have final recording documents prepared by or under the supervision of a Washington State licensed land surveyor. Each lot, parcel, or tract created by the short subdivision shall be surveyed in accordance with appropriate State statutes. The property corners set shall be identified on the plat and encroachments such as side yard easements, fences or structures shall be shown. Lot areas shall be shown on the plat. The lot areas of each parcel shall be shown on the recording documents.
4. Include the following on the face of the plat: “The lots created by unit subdivision are not separate building lots. Additional development on any individual lot in this unit subdivision may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot pursuant to applicable provisions of the Seattle Land Use Code.”
5. Add the conditions of approval after recording on the face of the plat or on a separate page. If the conditions are on a separate page, insert on the plat “For conditions of approval after recording see page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_.”
6. Provide an easement, covenant, or other agreement on the final plat for the proper posting of all unit lot addresses.
7. Submit the recording fee and final recording forms for approval.

*For the Life of the Project:*

8. Attach a copy of the recorded short subdivision to all permit application plans for any application for a permit to construct, demolish, or change use.

Signature: (signature on file) Date: November 30, 2006

Janet Hyde-Wright, Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development