



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:** 3008218  
**Applicant Name:** Brittani Ard  
**Address of Proposal:** 2814 NW 56<sup>th</sup> St

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into four unit lots. The construction of townhouses has been approved under Project #6138501. 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 issued construction permit authorizes demolition of the existing house and construction of four townhouses. Under the subject application for unit lot subdivision, separate “unit lots” will be created for each townhouse. The proposed square footages of the lots are as follows: A) 1,323.8 sq. ft.; B) 1,080.8 sq. ft.; C) 1,219.1 sq. ft.; and D) 1,222.3 sq. ft.



The following approval is required:

**Unit Lot Subdivision** - to divide one existing parcel into four unit lots.  
(Chapter 23.24 Seattle Municipal Code)

**BACKGROUND DATA**

Zoning: Lowrise Three (L-3).

Uses on Site: Under construction: Four Townhouses (two duplexes). The existing house on the site was recently demolished.

Public Comment: The comment period for this proposal ended on February 6, 2008. Two public comments were received, expressing concern about parking, traffic, and view blockage.

Environmental review is not triggered for this unit lot subdivision, or for the related construction permit. The related construction permit is under the environmental review threshold for the zone in which it is located. The analysis of environmental impacts, such as traffic and parking, is not within the scope of permitting authority for a unit lot subdivision. The analysis in this decision is limited to the short subdivision and unit lot subdivision criteria discussed below.

Site Description: The site is 4,850 sq. ft. the house on the site, classified by King County as a duplex has recently been demolished as part of the issued plans for new construction on the site. The site is fairly level and contains no environmentally critical areas.

Surrounding Area: The area is bordered on the west, east, and across the street to the south with Lowrise 3 zoning, the same as the subject site. Across the alley to the north, properties are zone Single Family (SF 5000). The block is developed with a mixture of single family and multi-family housing.

Proposal Description: Per the issued construction permits, the site will contain two duplexes, accessed via a driveway leading from the alley to an auto court between the units. Garages will be located within each unit. The street contains curb, gutter and sidewalk.

### **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;*
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.*
8. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.046, Multiple single-family dwelling units on a single-family lot, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating two (2) or more lots from one (1) lot with more than one (1) existing single-family dwelling unit.*

Summary - Short Subdivision

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments or review approvals from Zoning (DPD), Ordinance and Structural (DPD), Drainage (DPD), Water (SWD), City Light (SCL), Fire Department (SFD) 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. 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 will 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 and also is a unit lot subdivision; therefore SMC 25.09.240 is not applicable. Tree and other landscaping requirements were considered under the building permit and SEPA review. Section 23.24.046 regarding multiple single-family dwellings on one lot does not apply since all structures on the site have been demolished and new structures will be constructed. 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**

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 fact 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 associated construction development contains four residential units. The structures, as reviewed under the separate building permits, will conform to the development standards in place at the time the permit application was submitted. 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: Include the following on the face of the plat: *“The unit lots created by unit subdivision are not separate buildable lots. Additional development on any individual unit 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 is provided on the plat.

### 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. Add the conditions of approval, “For the Life of the Permit” 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 for the life of the permit see page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_.”
2. On the final plat, make the corrections outlined in the land use correction date 2/8/08, and the zoning correction dated 2/1/08.
3. Provide on the plat the required Seattle City Light easement.

