



City of Seattle

Department of Planning and Development

D. M. Sugimura, Director

**ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Project Number: 3014979  
Applicant: Brandon Winters  
Address: 1741 NW 60<sup>th</sup> St

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into two parcels of land. Proposed parcel sizes are: A) 2,498 sq. ft. and B) 2,498 sq. ft. Existing structure to be removed.

The following approval is required:

**Short Subdivision** - to create two parcels (Chapter 23.24, Seattle Municipal Code).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Zoning: Lowrise 1 L(R1)

Public Comment: Several comment letters and phone calls were received by neighboring property owners during the public comment period which ended May 1, 2013.

**ANALYSIS – SUBDIVISION**

General short subdivision standards: 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, as modified by this chapter;*
2. *Adequacy of access for pedestrians, vehicles, utilities and fire protection as provided in Section 23.53.005, Access to lots, and Section 23.53.006, Pedestrian access and circulation;*
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 Section 25.09.240, Short subdivisions and subdivisions, in environmentally critical areas;*
6. *Whether the proposed division of land 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 townhouse, rowhouse, and cottage housing developments as permitted in Single-Family, Residential Small Lot, and Lowrise zones and for single-family dwelling units in Lowrise zones, or any combination of the above types of residential development, as permitted in the applicable zones; and;*
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 or more lots from one lot with more than one existing single-family dwelling unit.*
9. *Every lot except unit lots and lots proposed to be platted for individual live-work units in zones where live-work units are permitted, shall conform to the following standards for lot configuration, unless a special exception is authorized under subsection 23.24.040.B:*
  - a. *If a lot is proposed with street frontage, then one lot line shall abut the street for at least 10 feet; and*
  - b. *No lot shall be less than 10 feet wide for a distance of more than 10 feet as measured at any point; and*
  - c. *No proposed lot shall have more than six separate lot lines. The lot lines shall be straight lines, unless the irregularly shaped lot line is caused by an existing right-of-way or an existing lot line; and*
  - d. *If the property proposed for subdivision is adjacent to an alley, and the adjacent alley is either improved or required to be improved according to the standards of Section 23.53.030, then no new lot shall be proposed that does not provide alley access, except that access from a street to an existing use or structure is not required to be changed to alley access. Proposed new lots shall have sufficient frontage on the alley to meet access standards for the zone in which the property is located.*

### Conclusion

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments from DPD and other City Departments, and review and analysis by the Land Use Planner, the above criteria have been met. The short subdivision meets all minimum standards or applicable exceptions set forth in the Land Use Code. This short subdivision will provide pedestrian and vehicular access (including emergency vehicles), and public and private utilities. Adequate provisions for drainage control, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal will be provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions. Much of the public comment on the proposal expressed concern about the additional density that will result from the proposed short plat. The site, as currently configured, would be allowed to be redeveloped with up to 3 units based on the Lowrise 1 density standards. The short subdivision will allow each of the new lots to be redeveloped with two units, for a total of four. This increase occurs because the Land Use Code provides for rounding up to the nearest whole number for density

SMC 23.88.002B (3) states: When density calculations result in a fraction, any fraction up to and including one-half ( 1/2) shall be disregarded and any fraction over one-half ( 1/2) shall allow the next higher number. This provision may not be applied to density calculations that result in a quotient less than one (1).

This provision has been in the Code since 1998; therefore DPD concludes that together with subsequent code revisions which encourage increased density in the City, the proposed short plat serves the public interest. All applicable criteria are met and the proposal creates the potential for increased housing opportunities in the City.

**DECISION –SHORT SUBDIVISION**

The proposed Short Subdivision is **GRANTED**.

Signature: (signature on file) Date: June 6, 2013  
Cheryl Waldman  
Supervising Senior Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development

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