

Attachment C
Transcript of Public Hearing
North Beacon Hill
June 12, 2012

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FORMAL PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING SURPLUS PROPERTY

Seattle City Light

HEARING EXAMINER JOSH WALTER PRESIDING

June 12, 2012

ORIGINAL

Official Transcript of Recording

1 HEARING OFFICER: Hi, everyone. Okay. Let's get started
2 here. Good evening. My name is Josh Walter. I am a
3 hearings officer at Seattle City Light. I'm going to be
4 moderating the public hearing on the disposition of surplus
5 utility property. This hearing is being conducted at the
6 request of city council as well as in order to meet state
7 law requirements.

8 The public meeting is scheduled to conclude at around --
9 or at 9:00. We're going to start the public hearing with a
10 short presentation by Dave Barber, our real estate manager
11 at City Light. And after that, we're going to open the
12 floor for public comment.

13 I'm here and we're here to listen and record your
14 comments. We're not here to answer questions or to engage
15 in any sort of debate. We're here to listen and to record
16 and help us with this process.

17 If you wish to make comment, there is a sheet out in the
18 front, outside the door, it has a highlighted comment sign
19 up on the top. So if you're interested in making comments,
20 please sign that if you haven't done so already.

21 The mic -- there's going to be the microphone that helps
22 us record as well as help your voice be heard. We can pass
23 it around, I think that might be the easiest thing. If you
24 could please just stand up and make your comment, that would
25 be helpful.

1 Also if your comments are the same or largely the same as
2 other individuals who have already commented, please yield
3 your time so others have the opportunity to add new
4 comments. We do -- we are interested in your comments, but
5 also if we -- if comments become repetitious, we want others
6 to be able to voice their opinion as well. We are on
7 somewhat of a time constraint.

8 So we're also taking written comments. Information on
9 how to submit written comments is at the registration table,
10 it's the small sheets that are cut into little strips. That
11 has the address that -- where you can submit your comments.
12 If English isn't your primary language, we're accepting all
13 written comments. The only -- in any form. So we only ask
14 that you mark on the comments which language the -- your
15 comments are written in so we can make it easier to
16 translate.

17 With that, we -- I think we're ready to get the show on
18 the road. And Dave Barber from City Light is here to start
19 his presentation. And thank you all for coming.

20 MR. BARBER: Hi. Thank you again for coming. I'm going
21 to give a PowerPoint presentation. Many of you have already
22 seen that presentation, but I see a new faces in this group
23 so there will be a little bit of new stuff.

24 Also from City Light we have Lynn Best who is our
25 director of real estate and environmental affairs, and Mark

1 VanOss from our public affairs office, and these gentlemen
2 are from the AV Factory in Kent taking the video record.

3 A little housekeeping. Obviously, if there's a -- any
4 kind of emergency, there's doors there and there you both
5 got up -- you all got up here, so you know that the exits
6 are in either end of the hallway.

7 (PowerPoint presentation not transcribed.)

8 MR. BARBER: Josh, you want to take over?

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thanks, Dave. Okay. So to keep this
10 moving we're going to move straight to -- straight to public
11 comment. So I have a list here. And, again, I just want to
12 reiterate that there's another list outside. If you're
13 interested in speaking, please put your name on the list and
14 I'll call your name and we can start.

15 So the first on the list is Maikele Mengesha.

16 MR. MENGESHA: Thank you. Thank you, Josh, for giving us
17 this opportunity.

18 Mr. Tesa Memagrami (phonetic), the chairman of the board
19 of trustee, can you stand up, please?

20 And the rest of the board of trustee for organizing this
21 meeting, thank you for the hard work.

22 On the first hearing we described it was (unintelligible) to
23 our church is to the community and what kind of label they
24 would like to expect or they would expect. Today I don't
25 think we need to repeat any of that.

1 But (unintelligible), Dave Barber, thank you for all the
2 prompt responses every time I bugged you.

3 We followed this property before it was placed on this
4 list. Probably we are also the initiators of this project.
5 Dave has reminded me over and over that City Light want a
6 full price. I think he's worried that because we're coming
7 here, we are going to want this land for free. That's not
8 what we're trying to do. And I want you all to assure him,
9 we want to pay a fair market price. Then why bother, why
10 don't you just stay at home and just give an offer? This
11 might be a (unintelligible). No. We want the City and all other
12 people to understand, this land is the neighboring land to
13 us. So we just want to buy it and people have support us.
14 We need the support from the community. We want to be
15 accepted as good neighbors by the community. This is our
16 reason for mobilizing all of you and for coming here to the
17 city and showing our face to the city officials. Am I
18 clear?

19 AUDIENCE: Yes.

20 MR. MENGESHA: Can you say yes and explain it to the
21 officials?

22 Very good, very good. Once I cleared this,
23 we want to proceed, the Emmanuel Ethiopian Orthodox
24 Tewahedo Church is the first (unintelligible) church in Seattle,
25 the first Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in Seattle.

1 Other churches are in town now with much, much bigger
2 structures. They have built bigger structures. We need to
3 do that or we even need to build a bigger structure. I
4 think this is an expression of all of you here and all of
5 the people that didn't come here today. So if we want to do
6 this, we want the land next to us.

7 Why would the City be interested in helping us getting
8 this land with all the financial -- with the financial
9 burden? Well, we explained a lot of things last time. We
10 doing a lot of youth work the City is involved with. At
11 this point, we don't have any gang activity in Seattle. In
12 fact, all the East African gangs have dissolved. This is a
13 lot of responsibility to the City in police work, in court
14 work, in almost everything. Now, we doing this in a
15 church -- like all of you know, the church do amazing work
16 in giving direction to the young people. So this is the
17 interest of the City.

18 Now, we would also like to separate the City and the City
19 Light. If we need help in some areas, we could go to the
20 City and ask it. The City -- the City Light is the seller
21 here. We want to treat it like a seller.

22 But today instead of me talking, I want to bring one
23 lady, which is the strength of the church where women, hard
24 working women, this lady, Ms. Alemash Berhe, had been the
25 leader of the church. She had been the chairwoman for about

1 two terms, if not more, of the church. And I want her to
2 give you what the women are doing here.

3 After that, we have a deacon was educated in our church,
4 become a deacon and is serving the church. I want him to
5 tell you his stories and the story of some other younger
6 people. Thank you for listening.

7 And, Ms. Alemash, can you come here?

8 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Okay. So Alemash.

9 MS. BERHE: Yes. Thank you. Good evening, everyone. My
10 name is Alemash Berhe, I'm a member of Emmanuel Ethiopian
11 Orthodox Church.

12 I'm here to share with you some of the activities our
13 church does for the children and the woman. The woman have
14 a big role in the church. They participate in leadership.
15 I'm an example of that. I have served for a couple of times
16 for the board of trustee. The current board of trustee is
17 predominantly served by a woman. The mothers are very
18 connected with the church. They know if their children grow
19 up in the church, the direction of their life will be very
20 successful.

21 The church was established in 1989 and it has done a
22 remarkable job for the youth. The parents bring their kids
23 to the church from a young age. The children get a basic
24 moral and spiritual integration. They are told what's good
25 and bad, what's right and wrong, and how to behave and be

1 respectful.

2 The church has divided the children into three groups:
3 The little ones, the middle age, and the teenage group. It
4 gives a spiritual integration based on that age. Some of
5 the teachers are mothers who have a deep knowledge in bible.
6 We have also preached this and deacons who teach the
7 children. The church has been able to educate and train the
8 youth to become deacon for the church.

9 The children who went through the Emmanuel Ethiopian
10 Orthodox Church at an early age are graduating from high
11 school, college and universities; some of them have
12 graduated with their PhD. After getting a job, some of them
13 have married in the church and established their families.
14 There is no more happiness than witnessing the small
15 children you have known and see them become a responsible
16 man and woman. This is what we all want to see and hear
17 about our children.

18 Emmanuel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church has made a
19 great contribution to the Ethiopian community and the
20 greater Seattle area. Because of what the church is doing,
21 we'll have good citizens who will be very responsible in the
22 future.

23 Today, we are here to ask the City Light and the City of
24 Seattle to support the Emmanuel Ethiopian Orthodox Church to
25 be given priority to purchase the land. The church has a

1 limited space for Sunday school. We are teaching the
2 children in a small room. We need a bigger space so that
3 the children can have enough time to learn in the
4 classrooms.

5 At this time, due to shortage of space and increasing
6 number of children, we have divided the Sunday school
7 classes into three parts. The first, which is beginners,
8 for two hours; then the middle-age children for two hours;
9 and finally the teenagers for two hours. Had we had a
10 bigger space, all the children would have been taught for a
11 longer time in their designated classrooms. We hope the
12 City Light and the City of Seattle will understand the need
13 for the space for the Emmanuel Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

14 We need all your support to have the land sold to our
15 church. We will use this land to build an addition so we
16 can have a place for the young people to learn. The land
17 will help Emmanuel Ethiopian Orthodox Church to continue its
18 outstanding job in integrating the children.

19 And thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Next is Deacon Dawit
21 Bruhana (phonetic) -- Brhanu.

22 DEACON BRHANU: My name is Dawit Brhanu. I am a Deacon
23 at St. Emmanuel Ethiopian Orthodox Church. For the record,
24 I do work in VMC Company for Microsoft. I'm a senior
25 developer and testing in engineering program. We are -- I'm

1 a member of a team in Windows, so you might have seen all
2 the applications, right? Are you still satisfied with
3 everything you have seen over the phones and the computers?
4 I can tell you some other mysteries, if you want me to. You
5 want to? No, I have some other colleagues here, so they
6 might inform some other people so I might be in danger.

7 So I want to go back to the main points. I'm sorry for
8 taking your time on sighting -- putting the presentation on
9 the board. So I want to start with this word. We are the
10 prides and antique (phonetic) for the city and for the whole
11 town in Washington. We -- as we all are citizens of this
12 great country, the United States of America, we want to
13 contribute and do our parts in every aspect, whichever it is
14 needed, right? We are the Ethiopians. We know our culture,
15 we know what we want to do and we don't want to just give
16 you some, like, some ambitious talkings. We just want to go
17 to the point.

18 Next one. Okay.

19 So who are we? I think by now most of you got
20 information from Ethiopians, so we are Orthodox from
21 Ethiopia. We have kids, youth and family from Africa. We
22 are the prides of Africa, too, for not getting colonized by
23 foreigners. And, you know, we contributed to this, even to
24 Seattle. I think I heard one history that Hylas Lhasa
25 (phonetic) came here and inaugurated the Space Needle,

1 right? So we have more than 60 or 70 years in connection
2 with Seattle, too.

3 Ethiopians in Seattle, there were estimated about, there
4 are more than 45,000 people and, let's say, half of them are
5 outside of Orthodox, and let's say more than like 20,000 or
6 15,000 people are Ethiopian Orthodox, so you can guess that
7 this is not even a quarter of the people. But as you can
8 see it, we always have a problem on getting ourselves into
9 our church, because it's very small and tiny.

10 This is a direct quote that is presented by the small
11 kids in our church. We didn't know how they did it, but
12 they put it there. A church without children is a church
13 without future. So we want to put and write a big history
14 for them. We want to give it to them as we are members and
15 citizens of this great country.

16 What's our plan? Our plan includes our kids, our Sunday
17 school, elders, forefathers and every one of them for our
18 future in Seattle and for our Ethiopian community as well,
19 as we all are citizens of this great, great, country.

20 Here's the play point. You can also find us on Facebook.
21 You can see our website. You can email to us. So we have a
22 lot of things to tell you. What I want to emphasize as a
23 deacon and as (unintelligible) and a member of our Sunday
24 school, we did our best and it is tangible that none of our
25 high school and college students are zero with dropouts. So

1 we did great job, both for our country, for our community
2 and for this city. We want to tell you and emphasize that
3 one.

4 This is our church members' pictures. We have a lot of
5 pictures, and I just got four of them. I wish his Holiness
6 Habuna Estadios (phonetic) might be here but he was not able
7 to. So those are peoples, clergies, members, ladies, kids,
8 everyone in our church. As you know, our church has passed
9 through many obstacles and we did it all because of the help
10 of the Almighty God.

11 We want to emphasize that, yes, we can do it. Sell it to
12 us, and let's show you what we can do. It's not all because
13 of us. It's not relying on us, but all because of God and
14 the help of his holy mother, St. Virgin Mary, yes, we can do
15 it.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Next is Selas Waldehlwat?

17 No? Okay, okay.

18 Neilson Eney?

19 MR. ENEY: Hi. Thank you for the opportunity to address
20 the -- whoever is listening, I guess. Wow, so this room is
21 really crowded. We probably could have used a bigger room.
22 Kind of like you guys, maybe, could use a bigger building
23 for your church. So a few concerns of mine, I live right
24 behind the church, a few concerns of mine are sort of like
25 moving around here is how moving around the neighborhood is

1 every Sunday morning because of a tremendous number of cars
2 that are parked, a lot of them illegally, actually. And so
3 that's one concern that I have, is that if -- well, I guess
4 I hear the church saying that you want to be good members of
5 the community.

6 Respecting parking laws is a good example of being a good
7 member of the community. Not parking in other people's
8 property is a good example of being good members of the
9 community. Both of those things are problems currently, so
10 with a bigger building, it can only -- I can imagine that
11 the problems will be worse.

12 Let's see. The enthusiasm that you guys show and the
13 opportunity for something very unique to happen in our
14 neighborhood is exciting, so I support that, but if there is
15 going to be a sale or some transfer of the land that expands
16 above and beyond what the zoning is, which currently is L-2,
17 which is multi-family, I think three stories maximum, which
18 I think exceeds -- or the church's plans, as far as I can
19 tell from what I'm hearing, exceed the zoning so the zoning
20 would need to be changed.

21 I don't know -- that part of this whole process confuses
22 me, so I don't know if the zoning will be changed or if it
23 needs to be changed for what the church's plans are. So if
24 the zoning does need to be changed, I would be interested in
25 having the -- whoever is going to sell it communicate that,

1 you know, if that's part of the sale.

2 One last thing is, I will just reiterate that I would
3 love to be in support of having the church expand, but,
4 again, I will reiterate my concerns, which is that currently
5 I see some challenges with the church's impact on the
6 community.

7 And another example is, I think a month ago, I don't know
8 what the big celebration was. I think it's the Ascension of
9 Mary; is that correct? Sorry if I'm getting that wrong.
10 It's a big celebration. It looked really fun and lots of
11 good food there, I'm sure.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

13 MR. ENAY: Okay, yeah, sure. So I've lived behind the
14 church for three years, and every year on the Sunday
15 following I have been the one that has gone around and
16 cleaned up, swept the alleyway, usually after waiting a few
17 days for some other cleanup to occur. That's another
18 example of the current state of how the church interacts
19 with the neighbors.

20 And so my concern is that that will continue and we'll be
21 exacerbated by an increased presence there. If those
22 concerns are met, I will be more than happy to support what
23 is a really unique opportunity to add to the culture and
24 vitality of a really diverse neighborhood that I am proud to
25 share with you all. Thanks.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

2 Next is Dawit Tezezn.

3 MR. TEZEZN: Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

4 Hello, everyone. I just want to make one comment. I think
5 my colleague and our church leaders have spoken, but I just
6 want to speak as a father of two kids who is thinking too
7 much, you know, what will happen to these kids when they
8 grow up and when they come into the community. So I just
9 want to iterate that I think the number of people you see
10 here can speak for itself. I think the place we are now is
11 very tight, so this place, the church we are in, services
12 three generation: The children; the middle age, the adults;
13 and the elders. So I think there is a place for the two,
14 for the adults and to some extents, the elders, but for the
15 children, usually they are kind of, I think, challenged, in
16 terms of getting another space to exercise, whatever, you
17 know, they want, along with teachings of the church.

18 So last time, if I can share my personal experience, my
19 mother came from back home to visit us and she was trying to
20 communicate with my kid. And she cannot speak the language
21 he was speaking, and he cannot speak the language which
22 she's speaking. And I felt very deeply sorry because I
23 couldn't teach him enough because of some of the constraints
24 we are having, the culture and the language. So I promised
25 my mother that when he grow up, he can talk to her directly

1 without an interpreter.

2 So the reason I come here today is actually for my kid,
3 who is going to grow up tomorrow so that he can have the
4 language which I used to speak and which I still speak, the
5 culture, the religion, which I'm in, so that he can grow up
6 with deep values so that he can be -- support, he can
7 participate and he can also contribute to the community, to
8 the country we live in. So I think if you come and attend
9 in the church, what we told the kids is, how they can be
10 nice to other people. When they grow up, how can they
11 protect the good things towards people. So I think without
12 repeating what other people said, I was thinking to do the
13 same thing, but I think there is no need to repeat again.
14 But I think as a responsible father and as a responsible
15 community member, I believe we need this space so that, you
16 know, we can help the community more.

17 I share the concern with (unintelligible) never came
18 here, I share the concern. I think he also testified the
19 number of people in that small space, I think is a little
20 bit more. I think -- I don't have the plan in terms of
21 what's going to be, but I have an opinion. I think a
22 parking garage would be one option, or it could be a place
23 where kids come and play on, another option. But I think
24 this is also to help us to integrate to the community better
25 in terms of, you know, confining the community that comes

1 into the church.

2 So I think this question also goes with your challenge
3 which you are having so that we can work better with the
4 community and with the neighborhood.

5 And thank you for giving me this opportunity. I hope the
6 City Light will sell this land to us. Thank you very much.

7 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

8 Next on the list is Sophia Trembanis.

9 MS. TREMBANIS: Trembanis.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Trembanis. Okay, great. If you could
11 come and, any additional speakers, if they could come and
12 actually stand right where Dawit was standing, that would
13 work perfectly for recording your comments.

14 MS. TREMBANIS: (Inaudible).

15 HEARING OFFICER: Over here would be great.

16 MS. TREMBANIS: Hello, I'm -- members, camera people,
17 whoever you are. Thank you. I'm a member and resident of
18 this --

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

20 MS. TREMBANIS: It works. I guess I'm supposed to be
21 this way. I was speaking this way. Sorry. Now I
22 understand.

23 Anyway, I wanted to say I've been a resident of this
24 city, went to this school at one time. And I am a member of
25 the Greek Orthodox church of the city of Seattle, The

1 Assumption, that has just finished a wonderful hall up on
2 Capital Hill.

3 Several years ago we invited the Ethiopian Church people
4 that belong to the Gebriel that went to our church, for
5 free, for nothing. As you know, service cannot be done
6 twice in the same time at a church alter. The Orthodox do
7 not agree with that. Therefore, we had -- the people were
8 next door, which were, at that time, our hall facilities,
9 and they would conduct their services there.

10 So I know how difficult it is to get started,
11 particularly with the church, and I have all -- you have my
12 respect and I know your background. I know the story of the
13 Ethiopians quite well, and we know the story of the
14 Ethiopian people that have gone -- as I said, that have
15 started this beautiful church up on Martin Luther King Way,
16 Gebriel and Michael.

17 So I wish you the best. I hope that the City of Seattle
18 is not going to be too hard on its pricing and will be
19 forthcoming. As you know, this wonderful structure here and
20 all the things that they have done was picked up for a
21 dollar. And look what a dollar did, quite a few things.

22 So I understand, of course, your culture is different and
23 I know we have rules in America and we like things clean and
24 we like people parking in the right places. I'm sure you're
25 going to learn that. And maybe a little park in the back

1 will be maybe a place where you will have things during the
2 summer and a place that you can also have a parking area.

3 So with some of that, I think I have more or less covered
4 it unless I have forgotten everything in my old age. So I
5 wish you all the very best. And I know that, for example,
6 the Greek Church of the Assumption, which is up on Capital
7 Hill, in 1937, the St. Demetrius and the Assumption were one
8 church. And because of the difference and the thinking, the
9 doc -- the priest at that time, my father was very close to
10 him, Father Phoutrides was a doctorate from Yale University.
11 And he wanted the children to be able to understand the
12 liturgy not only in their language, but particularly in
13 English because if they did not understand what the liturgy
14 was going on in English, they would never be really true,
15 they would never understand, they would just see the rituals
16 and they wouldn't understand too much. So over that fact
17 there, they divided. And so even though the church over
18 in -- which is now part of REI and it's close to the Greek
19 Ortho -- the Russian Orthodox church, which is down a block
20 on the street.

21 In 1935, seven people, among one which was my father, put
22 down their homes as mortgage to buy a house that was up on
23 Capital Hill. Since that time, it's converted three times.
24 It converted from the house to a kind of -- I don't know
25 what you would call it -- kind of like a church, brick

1 thing. And then they refixed it, which was -- it's a white
2 church with walls around it. And now they have extended the
3 other side with very little money.

4 They have actually gone very -- everything that has been
5 done has been done by their own pockets. They have said,
6 well, we're going to save our money, and we're not going to
7 any bank, and we're not going to pay no ten percent and
8 we're going to get this out of the people. And so after
9 many years, they are build -- they have extended and put on,
10 and they have just opened it the 9th, this Saturday, which
11 just went by, a big celebration to commemorate the opening
12 of the church, of the hall and everything.

13 And the cost of that, my friends, was \$7 million. They
14 didn't have to see no Seattle Bank. They didn't have to go
15 walk to Bank of California. But they did it saving it ahead
16 and time and getting it going, so I think that almost a
17 grant is due here.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

19 MS. TREMBANIS: You're welcome. Anyway, thank you very
20 much. My name isn't Sophia for nothing. Thank you very
21 much.

22 HEARING OFFICER: Thanks, Sophia.

23 Okay. The next on the list is Rosie Cruse. I can -- we
24 can actually just come to you if that would work best.

25 MS. CRUSE: Thank you.

1 My name is Rosie. I'm also a neighbor to the
2 back along with Neilson over here. And I just
3 kind of want to piggy-back a little bit on what Neilson
4 spoke about with regards to just kind of how the church can
5 affect, you know, our little corner of the world. And I,
6 like Neilson, you know, want to be a supporter of the
7 church. We've been there -- I think we moved in almost four
8 years ago. And we have had, you know, our fair share of
9 similar responsibilities as what Neilson was talking about.
10 We have spent plenty of time kind of cleaning up after the
11 flyers that get put up on cars and then littered on our
12 boulevard.

13 And some of these types of pieces that are coming from
14 the church. And I just kind of want to, you know, I know my
15 husband has gone in to the church before, had to disrupt
16 service to get to our parking spot in the back alley. And,
17 you know, it's hard for us because we don't want to do that,
18 we don't want to disrupt the service. We know that it's,
19 you know, a sacred time. We want to be very respectful of
20 that, but we, in turn, kind of are requesting the same
21 respect at our property as well.

22 And so we just want to, you know, make you guys aware
23 that, yes, if it does get bigger, is this going to just be a
24 bigger problem because that's something that, from our
25 standpoint, we do get frustrated having to deal with some of

1 those things.

2 We have also had problems with hit-and-run on our
3 vehicles in the back and rocks being thrown back in the back
4 alley area towards our cars and things, too.

5 And other pieces, just kind of the loiterings, which has
6 I think gotten better. We have had to discuss with numerous
7 members that we're not a rental property, we actually own
8 our homes, they're townhomes. And so the stairs and the
9 back area toward our entryways are our property. And when
10 you come up on there, we have had to clean up cigarettes and
11 litter and trash back there before.

12 We've actually -- I'm not sure if it was you guys but we
13 actually have. We have stopped people after Sundays in the
14 past that have been wearing the traditional -- the
15 traditional garb. And it's only happened once or twice and
16 it's been many years, at least two, I think, since the last
17 that it happened, but it is a concern.

18 And so we just, you know, I know I speak for my husband
19 and myself to say that we would just like to, you know, kind
20 of be, I guess, comforted that if you guys are going to grow
21 and want to support the community, you know, that some of
22 those things are being taken into consideration, too. So
23 thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Okay. That wraps up the
25 list. Is there anybody else who is interested in making a

1 comment that didn't sign up?

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible) a response to
3 what the speaker has said.

4 HEARING OFFICER: If you do give a response, I'd like the
5 response to be from one person. So if someone has a
6 community response, please do so. I'd rather not have any
7 sort of continuation of the same thing being spoken [sic]
8 spoken of over and over again.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Okay. The concern you heard
10 from our neighbors is a valid concern. First of all, I want
11 to start with that. We appreciate that you have come and
12 talked about it, but we had, like, more appreciated it if
13 you just talked to us, also, because we are neighbors.
14 That's what we want. Our first interest is to come to this
15 public hearing is because we want to be good neighbors.
16 This is genuine. You have to trust us. We have built
17 communities. We have built churches. This is not the only
18 church. When we are integrated with the community, we have
19 done better. And this is what we want to do, it's
20 consistent.

21 Now, we have a problem with kids. They are running every
22 Sunday, and that's one of the issues we are facing very
23 heartily. With a smaller place, we have more problem. With
24 a bigger place, our problems we think will be handled
25 better. This is one premises.

1 About zoning, an issue was raised. We don't want to
2 build anything higher than two floors. We don't have any
3 intention to do that. We are not going to do that. There
4 is no need for a church to do that.

5 About the trash, I am not aware. I know about the
6 parking, yeah, all right. A couple of days, people have
7 parked; although we told them to move. They have moved.
8 And they might have done that. I'm not going to argue.
9 Parking might have violated.

10 Trash, we clean up every time. Flyers, they might be
11 flying everywhere that people put them. We try to do
12 better. But in the future, what I want you to do is if you
13 see anything, come talk to us. We are very easy to talk to.
14 We are very simple people. There is no -- there is -- I
15 mean, you don't see any big or huge guy here. We are all
16 tiny people like anybody else. Talk to us. We will clean
17 our mess. But, mind you, you moved in the last four years.
18 We have been there earlier, so --

19 HEARING OFFICER: I think that that's enough. Thank you.

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

22 Anyone else that -- do you want to come up here? Over on
23 the side, that'd be great. Even a little further away just
24 so it's kind of back here.

25 MS. KOMONISHI: Great. My name is Amy Komonishi (phonetic)

1 and I live across the street from the church. And the
2 general idea about our neighborhood is that next door is
3 Beacon Hill Elementary School. And they do not have any
4 parking lot for the staff, so during the week when school is
5 in session, there is absolutely no parking on the street.
6 And then sometimes on the weekends at night they might have
7 some events as well. So I reiterate with Neilson and his
8 wife about the parking on the weekends can be an issue.

9 We have a lot of condos, townhomes around our
10 neighborhood that push out more cars on the street. So I
11 just want to reiterate that parking is a problem.

12 Also, too, in our neighborhood we're not a RPZ,
13 residential parking zone, so people tend to park in our
14 neighborhood and then take the bus to work, so that causes
15 another problem with parking as well. So you have, you
16 know, the increased building of townhomes, you have the
17 Beacon Hill school, plus you have no RPZ, so there's no
18 two-hour -- there's no parking limitations.

19 So I just wanted to tell you about the neighborhood.
20 It's very limited with street parking. And, as I said,
21 people can park illegally sometimes, but luckily for us we
22 do have a garage, but I know my neighbors have had issues
23 with parking.

24 And also there's car theft as well in our neighborhood,
25 so I just wanted the City of Seattle to be aware that this

1 neighborhood is very crowded with parking. I did talk to a
2 librarian who came to visit the school a couple of days ago,
3 and she couldn't find parking. She had to walk blocks away.
4 And the Beacon Hill school is very big and it has a big
5 staff.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We hear you (inaudible).

7 MS. KOMONISHI: Yeah. So I just want to reiterate that
8 parking is a very big problem in my neighborhood.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Any other comments? Anyone
10 else interested in speaking? Thank you.

11 EMMANUEL: Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Sorry. Can you identify yourself?
13 Sorry.

14 EMMANUEL: Sure, thank you. My name is Emmanuel. I'm a
15 member of St. Emmanuel, same, my name.

16 The concern is here, we're trying to build the church for
17 a good reason. And our members should follow the city
18 regulation parking and other issues, and that's going to be
19 left, you know, to the city administration. They know their
20 obligation. When it comes, you know, to cleaning and
21 parking, no one needs, you know, to tell them. This is --
22 and everybody needs to be responsible. If you park your car
23 in front of someone's residence, that's your responsibility.
24 Then your car is going to be towed away, and you should be
25 responsible for your own action.

1 So this is acceptable, you know, your comment is
2 acceptable. I should ride a bus if I'm not, you know, going
3 to get parking. So this is a very serious issue. If you
4 want to be a member of the church, then you have to follow
5 the parking regulation. This is Seattle. This is a very
6 serious issue. We cannot neglect this thing. So all our
7 members have to follow parking regulation.

8 Cleaning is our responsibility; there is no question
9 about it. So our neighbors cannot put this -- our problem
10 into a bigger, bigger problem. We are speaking, our
11 community is going to be protected from drugs, from criminal
12 activity. Then if you are, you know, planning to stay next
13 ten years in the neighborhood, would you expect -- do you
14 think our kids are going to be criminals? Drug users? We
15 are just planning about bigger issues.

16 We are wishing our kids -- I have three kids. What do
17 you think of those other -- our brothers and sisters across
18 the street, drinking and doing those bad, unpleasant things.
19 I don't want to talk to them. Very, very sad. Killing and
20 doing some other bad things, all kinds of bad things. And
21 the Seattle police are, you know, running the whole night.
22 What do you think? Are you speaking about illegal parking?
23 Then you can call the police, call the police and let the
24 car be towed. But if there is shooting, if there is other
25 drug activities, we are trying to protect those and

1 eliminate forever.

2 I have three kids. If my kids are going to be, you know,
3 drug users, then your kids will never be able to live there.
4 Trust me. Ten years from now, my daughter will be 25 and my
5 other kids will be like 15, 16. They can be a big problem
6 to your -- to your family. But, no, when we are planning,
7 you know, to build this beautiful church, then you will see
8 the good fruits of our goal. So thank you. Appreciate it.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. I think we're going to try
10 and wrap things up, so if anybody has anything other to say
11 that has not been addressed.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible)

13 HEARING OFFICER: Great, okay. There's -- as you see
14 here, there's information on write-in comments. There are
15 small little flyers outside that you can take with you to --
16 that has this address on the sheet. So if you're interested
17 in written comments, please do so. Other than that, I think
18 we would like to -- do you have something new and can you
19 make it brief?

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Yes. I promise I will make
21 it short and precise. I want to emphasize Neilson and the
22 other neighbor's concern about the parking and everything.
23 We have volunteers. We have engineers. We have computer
24 students. We have other workers who do work in Boeing and
25 other areas as well. We submitted more than twice for the

1 city, as well, to build our church when it was -- when there
2 was a fire accident. We submitted twice. There was a very
3 recent car accident in the church as well, too. So we
4 submitted that time as well, too.

5 To enlarge and get at least kind of a very small house
6 that we live now so that we can protect our children and
7 teach them what is supposed to do and what they should do.
8 Plus, the parking sides, I want to tell exactly what we have
9 now. The parking part that we have can consist only at
10 least -- just guessing the numbers -- at least 12. And if
11 we have that space, it will be tripled and quadrupled. So
12 we can at least do our part to minimize the parking
13 concerns.

14 So the big note and the big picture here is, we just want
15 to do our parts to play and to work together with you guys.
16 You have no idea how much we appreciate you and how much we
17 are giving respect for our neighbors. We do our annual
18 anniversary every once in a year, and they are very much
19 cooperative. That's what they're trying to point out, that
20 they are especially so. I want to put it, emphasizing on
21 that point, if you give us and if you sell that place for
22 us, we will give you and we will present valid and
23 attractive plan so we can do our part concerning all those
24 points that are picked out. Thank you.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. And is your --

1 MR. ABRAMI: (Inaudible).

2 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Is it addressing separate issues
3 other than community issues?

4 MR. ABRAMI: (Inaudible) what they didn't
5 say, and it's very short.

6 Okay. So our neighbors said something about us, but you
7 have to understand that we are very (unintelligible) and we
8 are very respectful citizens in this community. So we are
9 just like everybody else. We don't blame you for what
10 happened to our church because we had some accidents. We
11 don't blame each other. We are trying to build a better
12 community, building a beautiful church for our children and
13 for children and for everybody.

14 For example, when it comes to driving, there are some
15 people in the area who do not respect when we go into the
16 church and go out of the church, you can see that it's very
17 crowded. And everybody has to -- it's a church. There are
18 children. We are waiting for the crosswalks so, I mean,
19 it's the responsibility of the neighbors, also, to watch
20 each other.

21 When it comes to other -- the trash or other things,
22 when we have more chance, then we will be more responsible,
23 so it doesn't mean that -- one thing I didn't say, across
24 the street also, as the police know, everybody knows, there
25 are people who stop at the bus station, they drink drinks

1 all day, so they may be the ones who vandalize the cars and
2 do other things. So, I mean, I don't -- we don't have
3 anybody who smoke cigarette at all. 100 percent of us,
4 nobody smokes.

5 Secondly, secondly --

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Somebody (inaudible).

7 MR. ABRAMI: We don't believe in stealing.

8 We are very, very hard working people. We teach our
9 children to be good citizens and we are good citizens, we
10 don't steal. We don't do against the law. Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you, everyone. Thanks for
12 your comments. Thank you for coming. I hope that you feel
13 like you had have had the opportunity to speak -- speak your
14 mind and to provide us with information that you feel will
15 be helpful in this process.

16 If there are no other comments, I'd like to close --
17 close the public hearing and thank you all for coming.

18 (Hearing was adjourned.)
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