



Gregory J. Nickels
Mayor of Seattle

February 20, 2009

Scott McKean
BRAC 2005 Base Transition Coordinator
Department of the Army
70th Regional Readiness Command
4570 Texas Way West
Seattle, WA 98199-1015

Dear Mr. McKean:

The Seattle of Seattle, as the Local Redevelopment Authority for Fort Lawton, has received your letter indicating the Army's intent to delay the closure date of Fort Lawton until September of 2011.

We understand the Army's requirement to find an appropriate facility for the two new Army Reserve units in the Puget Sound area. Maintaining an Army presence at Fort Lawton until the property disposal decisions are made and implemented can be beneficial to the LRA and the surrounding neighborhood.

The City of Seattle, as the LRA, does have concerns regarding potential delays the continued use of Fort Lawton may cause in the processing of the LRA redevelopment plan and the Army's property disposal decisions. Your letter states that "Disposal of BRAC surplus facilities is ideally planned to closely follow closure." This statement implies an extended timeline for a Fort Lawton disposal decision beyond our initial understanding, which would be disadvantageous from our perspective. The Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan was adopted by the Seattle City Council on September 8, 2008 and submitted in October 2008 to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for their review and to the Department of the Army for their disposal decisions.

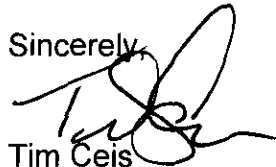
In developing the Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan the community and the LRA expectations were the plan would be reviewed by the Army and HUD in 2009 with Army disposal discussions with the LRA occurring shortly thereafter. An extended delay in the review and disposal decisions was not anticipated.

In fact the plan has already been through the HUD regional office initial completeness review and is now pending HUD review in their Washington, D.C. headquarters. The City is prepared to negotiate with the Army on the Fort Lawton disposal sooner than your letter indicates would happen if the facility were to have continued use until September 2011.

While the Army would continue to perform its due diligence, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has informed us that the military branches have requested that HUD provide priority reviews to installations that are vacant. The City of Seattle's preference is to support the extended use of Fort Lawton while remaining on the review schedule that was initiated when we submitted the redevelopment plan in October 2008.

We are therefore requesting written assurance from the Army that the Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan remains on the same timeline for HUD review as it was when the closure date was January 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Ceis', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Tim Ceis
Deputy Mayor

Cc: Mark Jones, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army