

Fort Lawton Community Relations Plan
Questions and Comments
June 2, 2008

Underlying key interests and issues

- Involvement in planning
Type of housing, population, type of programs
Accountability? Responsiveness? Transparency?
Clear communication
- Integration with Community
Residents contribute to community
How will there be integration – negative/positive impacts?
Has City had experience with this type of integration?
Concerns about changing nature of community from park-like/SF setting to urban
- Understand comparable projects
- Neighbors want City to provide analysis used to determine 66-100 units as correct number for successful projects
- Will there be sufficient money to support the buildings/programs/services at the level needed for the long term?
- Infrastructure – access, parking, traffic, congestion, grocery, school, medical, police, fire
- Evaluation of site – appropriate number of units for site in regards to:
 1. housing for homeless
 2. community as a whole

Comments on draft Community Relations Plan

- Comment: Inconsistency in terms “homeless” vs. “formerly homeless”

Specific suggestion: Use “formerly homeless”
- Comment: Clarify “alphabet soup” used to refer to agencies
- Comment: “Neighborhood” vague

Specific suggestion: Identify “neighborhood” as including residents, businesses, infrastructure, etc.
- Comment: Clarify who is developing housing

- Comment: Clarify who is managing programs
- Comment: Some terms not familiar to general public

Specific suggestion: Include a Glossary of Terms

- Comment: Lacks general background/description of providers

Specific suggestion: Include a description of providers in an Appendix

- Question: Is City Council's commitment of 66 units to be included at the Fort Lawton site as a replacement for the Capehart housing being demolished in Discovery Park a binding commitment?

- Comment: Italicized section under Housing Program on pg. 1 reads as if commitments in regards to programs (specifically services, staffing levels and tenant selection criteria) outlined in the Community Relations Plan can be changed by the providers after the Plan is finalized and without community input.

Answer: This section is being rewritten to clarify the commitment on the providers part to ongoing inclusion of community in further refining Community Relations Plan to address the possible changes in programs caused by level of funding, and the requirements of that funding, available at the time the actual projects are complete. Essentially, the providers have committed to involving the community in reworking the Plan as needed.

- Comment: In the Housing for Formerly Homeless Individuals Program Summary, there is no description of other seniors who may be served in the program in the case that they are not Native American elders.

Specific suggestion: Describe example population similar to how the YWCA breaks down its population in the Housing for Formerly Homeless Families Program Summary.

- Comment: Would like to see detailed description of facility and house rules

Specific suggestions: No alcohol in public places. No illegal drugs anywhere. No weapons.

- Comment: Outreach efforts will target Native American elders/veterans for the housing for formerly homeless individuals, but will they accept the housing?
- Comment: If not clean and sober, is this a harm reduction model?
- Comment: Clarify "Common Areas."

Specific suggestions: What will common areas look like? What are internal/onsite uses? What are greater community uses?

Answer: Common areas will likely consist of a cafeteria and/or community room in the housing for individuals, plus offices.

- Comment: Concern of the term “limited” transportation services in paragraph 6 on pg. 2.

Specific suggestion: Remove the term “limited.”

- Comment: Strengthen Community Engagement section.

Specific suggestion: How do we integrate existing community with new community and vice versa? Give examples, describe specific integration strategies in the Community Relations Plan.

- Comment: Better describe staff/staff levels in Community Relations Plan.

Specific suggestions: What does staff look like, e.g., are they nurses, security, etc.? Are they on-site or off-site? When are they there? What are they doing there?

- Comment: Consistently use the phrase “alcohol and other drug”
- Questions: Is there a protocol for filling vacancies in the housing for individuals? If the next person on the waiting list is not a Native American elder, and the services are designed to serve that population, how do you serve a population with different needs?

Specific suggestion: Include services/service providers for people who may not be Native American elders.