

Appendix C

Southeast Seattle Action Agenda Summary

The following presents strategies from the Southeast Seattle Community Development Action Agenda (non-transportation related):

Business and Job Creation Strategies

- Increase awareness and usage of available business technical assistance and financing.
- Support expansion of existing Rainier Valley businesses, and the establishment of new entrepreneurs who have a demonstrated record of serving multi-ethnic communities.
- Identify and fund a limited number of small- to medium-scale development projects that allow local businesses to become owners of their place of business.
- Create an aggressive façade improvement program targeting existing Rainier Valley business nodes, with particular emphasis on the Rainier Ave. S. corridor.
- Develop wireless and high-speed Internet access in the Rainier Valley to spur business growth and development.
- Initiate a concerted marketing and public outreach effort that highlights opportunities and successes in Rainier Valley.

Status:

- *The City is working to increase access to financial and technical assistance for immigrant-owned businesses. (Office of Economic Development)*
- *The City will increase technical and financial assistance to business owners and operators with limited English for energy and water efficiency, recycling and waste prevention, hazardous materials reductions and storm water pollution prevention. Outreach in 2005 will focus on restaurants and bakeries with a major emphasis in Southeast Seattle. (Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle City Light, and Office of Sustainability and Environment)*
- *The City has provided \$20,000 for a marketing campaign to promote the Rainier Valley and its businesses. (Office of Economic Development)*
- *The City is working to increase access to financial and technical assistance for immigrant-owned businesses. (Office of Economic Development)*
- *The City has increased the maximum amount to \$25,000 that is available through the City's Façade Improvement program to Southeast Seattle businesses and property owners. (Office of Economic Development)*

- *The City has identified the Columbia City business node along Rainier Avenue (S. Alaska to S. Dawson) as the initial Wi-Fi access area. City has completed engineering design work and will work with the Rainier Chamber of Commerce on developing an implementation plan. (Department of Information Technology)*

Physical Development Strategies

- Develop additional real estate financial tools and promote affordable rental, homeownership, and commercial development.
- Explore use of the State’s Community Renewal Law to support a community-supported and focused investment strategy for Rainier Valley.
- Support additional homeownership opportunities by targeting development efforts and assisting homebuyers and homeowners.
- Provide financial and technical assistance that encourages and creates business opportunities for retention and growth of locally owned businesses.
- Initiate a concerted marketing and public outreach effort that promotes the Rainier Valley as a great place to live and do business.
- Continue City of Seattle support of nonprofit development organizations and community-based financial institutions in their real estate development efforts.

Status:

- *The City will create additional tools that assist in addressing real estate and business lending financing needs in the Rainier Valley. (Office of Economic Development)*
- *The City will develop a community renewal plan that is part of an overall community-supported and focused investment strategy (Office of Policy and Management, Office of Economic Development, and Office of Housing)*
- *The Mayor will prepare code amendments to allow detached accessory dwelling units in single family zones in Southeast Seattle. (Department of Planning and Development)*
 - The Mayor will prepare an ordinance to allow cottage housing developments in Southeast Seattle. (Department of Planning and Development)*
 - The City will provide continued support for SEED’s Rainier Court development in the Genesee neighborhood, including funding for housing for first-time homebuyers. (Office of Housing and Office of Economic Development)*
 - The City will increase the marketing of its housing repair loans, weatherization grants and first-time homebuyer assistance programs in Southeast Seattle. (Office of Housing)*

- *The City will develop outreach information on the expedited permit process to the Southeast Seattle Reinvestment Area (SESRA) overlay (Department of Planning and Development)*
- *The City has submitted an application for an allocation of federal New Markets Tax Credits (NMTTC) that will encourage increased public and private sector investment in the Rainier Valley. (Office of Economic Development)*
- *Provided \$10,000, through the Race and Social Justice Fund, to develop a Southeast Seattle Tenant Outreach and Mobilization Drive where 20 community members are trained and 2 informational workshops are held to provide housing and tenant related information to 100 Southeast Seattle tenants. (Department of Neighborhoods)*
- *The City funded five rental housing projects containing 478 units in 2005. (Office of Housing)*
 - Rainier Court Phase 2 (The Dakota) – Provided \$414,095 to Southeast Effective Development in the development of 178 units of housing serving low-income families.*
 - MLK Family Housing – Provided \$885,000 to Archdiocesan Housing Authority in the development of 26 units of family serving low-income families, including 10 units for homeless families.*
 - Genesee Housing – Provided \$835,000 to Housing Resources Group in the development of 50 units of housing serving low-income households, including families and individuals with disabilities.*
 - New Holly Phase 3 – Provided \$2.1 million to Seattle Housing Authority in the development of 212 units of housing serving low-income families.*
 - St. Paul Senior Homes – Provided \$200,000 to Elder Health Northwest in the development of a group home containing 12 beds for people with Alzheimer’s disease and or dementia.*

Education and Workforce Development Strategies

- Identify and work with various educational providers to develop a coordinated approach to addressing the educational needs of Pre-K to Grade 12 students in Southeast Seattle.
- Target available resources to efforts that have shown proven outcomes and include support from other organizations.
- Develop a campaign to encourage increased educational funding in the legislature.
- Increase access to expanded or upgraded education and workforce training programs sited in Rainier Valley.
- Develop an image campaign that stresses the positive aspects of public schools and other educational efforts in the Rainier Valley.
- Increase additional partnerships in technical skills training as taught in public schools through collaborations with community colleges.

Status:

- *The City will invest more than \$35 million in Southeast Seattle over seven years to meet the educational needs of students and help close the achievement gap. For the first time ever, Families and Education Levy investments will be targeted to Southeast Seattle in order to have the greatest impact on academic achievement. Specific Levy investments will include:*
 - *Early Learning (nearly \$2 million per year invested in Southeast Seattle)*
 - *High-quality preschool for 400 low-income four-year-olds in Southeast Seattle to prepare them for kindergarten and improve their long-term school success.*
 - *Teacher training for preschool and child care teachers.*
 - *Home visits to families with toddlers in Southeast Seattle to build literacy skills.*
 - *Increased compensation for preschool staff who work with low-income children.*
 - *Family Support and Involvement (more than \$500,000 invested per year in Southeast Seattle)*
 - *Social Workers in elementary and K-8 schools to support achievement among high-need students.*
 - *Programs to help families in Southeast Seattle to be more involved in their children's education.*
- *After-School Programs (more than \$1 million invested per year in Southeast Seattle)*
 - *After-School programs to improve academic achievement at elementary and middle schools in Southeast Seattle.*
- *High-Risk Youth (nearly \$300,000 invested per year in Southeast Seattle)*
 - *Case managers will link youth in Southeast Seattle to culturally-appropriate services to ensure academic achievement.*
- *The City has funded various efforts to develop leadership, information or educational workshops for residents in Southeast Seattle (Department of Neighborhoods and Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs):*
 - *Successful Students of South Seattle – Provided \$14,000 to motivate parents and community members to donate time at Emerson Elementary School. The volunteers will help students, teachers with large class loads, and assist in supervision of activities on and around the school campus.*
 - *Scholastic Information Technology Education Scholarship – Provided \$14,300 to empower and equip youth in the practical use and application of technology in their scholastic efforts. Special effort will be made to reach African-American and other youth of color who may not have access to this new technology.*
 - *Liberation Poetry Project – Provided \$5,500 to design and implement an instructional curriculum which uses creative writing as a tool for examining and breaking down oppression.*
 - *Undoing Racism and Understanding Immigration – Provided \$7,500 to develop a project to organize an Undoing Racism training program and to host an immigration forum.*
 - *Mien Youth and Community Empowerment – Provided \$13,000 to train 10 Mien youth in leadership skills, public speaking, and general race and social*

justice issues. Youth will be responsible for organizing and implementing three race and social justice workshops for youth and adult community members and developing an analysis of surveys completed by workshop participants.

- *Refugee Voices Project – Provided \$12,309 to provide leadership, storytelling, and public speaking training to immigrant and refugee students enrolled in Cleveland High School’s Global Academy. The project also includes a group summit and an evening community event.*
- *The City has committed \$2 million for a ‘pre-apprenticeship training program with Seattle Jobs Initiative through the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund. (Office of Economic Development)*

Public Safety/Image Strategies

- Link the issuance and renewal of business licenses to compliance with city and county code requirements.
- Improve the effectiveness of the city’s code enforcement program.
- Create an aggressive façade improvement program that includes improvements designed to increase visibility and reduce barriers.
- Increase awareness and application of the Green Seattle Initiative¹ in Southeast Seattle.
- Expand recreational programs that engage youth in productive activities.
- Expand the Seattle Police Department (SPD)’s capacity to implement community-based policing programs.
- Increase the police presence in business districts through additional patrols (bicycle and foot patrols)

Status:

- *The City will develop a customized workshop for Southeast Seattle businesses that would focus on land use, health, fire and hazardous materials requirements, and crime prevention through environmental design. The first workshop will be scheduled by July 2005. (Department of Planning and Development)*
- *The City will work with local school officials in Southeast Seattle to enforce truancy with the goal of returning youth to the school environment. Application submitted for the ‘youth activities’ portion with a response expected by April 2005. (Seattle Police Department)*

¹ “Clean and Green Seattle” is a City of Seattle initiative that fosters working together to make Seattle a brighter, cleaner place at the neighborhood-level. The initiative connects neighbors with city departments, non-profit organizations, and private enterprises that can help them make communities more inviting.

- *The City provided \$10,000 to inform the members of the Latino community about their rights and responsibilities in their interactions with the Seattle Police Department. (Department of Neighborhood)*
- *The City will provide highly visible uniformed presence and enforcement in the Southeast Seattle neighborhood business district 'hot spots.' (Seattle Police Department)*

Arts, Culture and Public Space

- Increase cultural programming of existing cultural facilities and public spaces.
- Increase community philanthropy and support for the arts.
- Develop a catalogue of private and public resources for art and the development of public space.
- Increase the amount of art, cultural facilities, and public open space.
- Improve the image and visibility of Southeast Seattle through promotion of arts and culture programs.

Status:

- *The City, through the Department of Neighborhoods and Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, will:*
 - *Promote Local Arts and Culture - Increase promotion of Southeast Seattle as destination place for its dynamic arts and cultural scene.*
 - *Support the Arts – Provide support to SEED's Public Art Workshop 'PAWS' program that will result in two public art dedications in Southeast Seattle.*
 - *Expand Partnership with Arts – Expand its partnership with SEED to help revitalize the Southeast Seattle Arts Council 'SESAC.'*
 - *Target Outreach of Arts – Conduct targeted outreach of its program to ensure Southeast Seattle residents, artist and organizations have full opportunity to participate in the City's programs.*
 - *Public Investment in Arts – Assure that Sound Transit's investments in arts are effectively spent in Southeast Seattle.*
- *The City will also continue to use art and cultural programming/events to highlight the community's rich ethnic diversity (Department of Neighborhoods and Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs):*
 - *Celebrate Cambodia – Provided \$9,000 to provide cultural enrichment activities for Cambodian youth and their families to preserve and share the Cambodian community's rich traditions and strengthen relations between the generations. Activities will culminate in Celebrate Cambodia, a celebration of Cambodian cultural heritage at the Seattle Center in August 2005.*

- *Community Information and Empowerment – Provided \$6,940 to for community events and educational workshops that will take place at the recently completed community center.*
 - *Mercer Community “Words of Wisdom” - Provided \$15,000 to teach middle school youth interview techniques to collect cultural stories from ethnic communities and produce a book to be distributed to participants and an outdoor “Words of Wisdom” art piece.*
 - *2005 Cultural Celebrations – Provided \$11,150 highlight Southeast Seattle’s rich ethnic diversity.*
 - *Rainier Beach Performance Showcase – Provided \$13,000 to assist with a semi-annual event that will involve performances by students and amateur/professional community members and increase the use of the Paul Robeson Theater at Rainier Beach High School.*
 - *Family Stories: Disability and Culture – Provided \$11,265 to tell family stories of people with disabilities.*
- *Expand Van Asselt Community Center – The City will provide \$3.9 million to expand the Van Asselt Community Center by 6,000 square feet. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2005, with completion expected in early 2006. (Seattle Parks and Recreation, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, and Department of Neighborhoods)*
 - *Improvements to Columbia Park – The City will provide \$309,000 for landscaping and other improvements to Columbia Park on Rainier Avenue. (Seattle Parks and Recreation)*
 - *Improvements to John C. Little Park – The City will provide \$515,000 for improvements to the John C. Little Park that includes a plaza, paths, a water play feature, picnic facilities, and a small community garden. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2006. (Seattle Parks and Recreation and Department of Neighborhoods)*
 - *Improvements to Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park – The City will provide \$475,000 for improvements to Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park. The project will include accessibility, park benches and picnic tables and landscaping improvements. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2005. (Seattle Parks and Recreation)*
 - *Acquisition of land for open space – The City will expand the Kubota Gardens Natural Area through the acquisition of one or more parcels in 2005. (Seattle Parks and Recreation)*
 - *Improvements to Rainier Beach Community Center Plaza – The City will be constructing a plaza for public gathering near the Rainier Beach Community Center, along with 300 feet of shoreline restoration. Construction expected to be completed in 2006. (Seattle Parks and Recreation, Arts and Culture, and Department of Neighborhoods)*

- *Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center – The City is working for the construction of a Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center that would be located in the Rainier Vista community (MLK Jr. Way S. and S. Alaska Street). The proposed community center would provide a state-of-the art recreational, educational and arts facility designed to meet the needs of Southeast Seattle residents and residents on a regional basis. (Office of the Mayor)*
- *Acquire Property for Hillman City P-Patch – The City has provided \$190,000 towards acquiring additional property necessary to assure the long-term sustainability of the Hillman City P-Patch. (Department of Neighborhoods)*
- *The City, through the Department of Neighborhoods and the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, will promote local arts and culture -- Increase promotion of Southeast Seattle as destination place for its dynamic arts and cultural scene.*