

## **Public Comment Summary**

***October 2012***

As the Policy Committee gets ready to discuss recommendations, DPD would like to summarize the public comment that we have received outside the committee meetings. The Committee meeting notes have captured comments from members of the public who have attended the meetings.

DPD has not received any email from the public comment email posted on the URM site. Email and phone inquiries have been received directly by DPD staff. The number of inquiries increased when DPD did a press release, sent the letter informing building owners about the URM policy development, and posted the list of potential URMs identified by DPD. The majority of the comments and questions had little to do with the policy development, rather questions about the “URM List” and technical questions.

Questions were asked about how to get “off the list” or how to change the status of a previously retrofitted URM, how to find a particular building on the list, alerting DPD to wrong addresses and alerting DPD to URMs not identified on the list. Technical questions concerned what documentation DPD would accept to evaluate URM building retrofit status and what process is used to make that determination. DPD also received offers of assistance to sit on the committee or subcommittee, to help develop program elements, and suggestions for community outreach.

Staff did receive one comment on thresholds or exemptions. One commenter agreed that single family and duplex structures should be exempt, suggested that basements should count as a story, and to exclude buildings less than 2,000 square feet.

The most frequent concern expressed in public comment both in the committee and through phone conversations is the cost of the retrofit. DPD, the City and Policy Committee are aware that seismic upgrades are expensive. Final recommendations will include incentives for retrofit of unreinforced masonry buildings, including financial incentives and options recommended by the finance subcommittee.

DPD has also heard anonymously from a very distressed property owner about the excessive cost of retrofits. Unfortunately, DPD is not able to contact this person to talk about their concerns and provide information on the policy development. DPD continues to be interested in talking with anyone who has issues about the recommendations and we encourage participation either by mail, email: [DPD\\_URM\\_Policy\\_Committee\\_Comments@seattle.gov](mailto:DPD_URM_Policy_Committee_Comments@seattle.gov) or by contacting Sandy Howard at 206.233.7194.