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Seattle Planning Commission**

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June 1, 2004

Tom Hauger, Manager, Comprehensive Planning
Department of Planning and Development
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Hauger:

The Planning Commission is pleased to share with you its comments and recommendations on the 2004 10 Year Comprehensive Plan Update and the Amendment Process. As the stewards of the Comprehensive Plan we know that changes to this document are vital for shaping the future of Seattle and we commend you for your hard work in ensuring a transparent public process and review.

The Commission has viewed this Ten Year Comprehensive Plan Update as one in which the City and community should take a broader look at the progress we have made in achieving Comprehensive Plan goals. It is also a time to confirm the City's commitment to the Urban Village strategy and strengthen its ability to provide services and amenities that should accompany growth in designated urban centers and villages. And finally, it is an opportunity to ensure that the updates strengthen and contribute to good urban planning in the City of Seattle.

The Commission has reviewed the proposals contained within the 2004 10 Year Comprehensive Plan Update and the Amendment Process including Council Amendments. The purpose of this letter is to provide both general and specific comments on the changes that have been proposed to-date and highlight overall issues that have been raised through this year's proposals.

Overall Comments:

The Planning Commission is pleased with the outstanding job done by the staff in preparing the recommended updates for the Comprehensive Plan Elements. Generally the changes go a long way to making the document clearer as a policy document and more accessible to the lay reader.

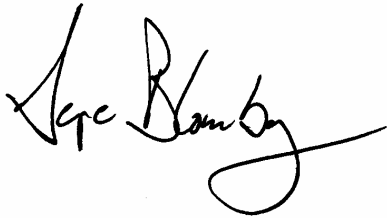
The Commission also appreciates the public outreach efforts of DPD and recognizes that staff and budget limitations put constraints on that process. The Commission would encourage DPD and the City generally to continue to engage the larger community in assessing and guiding how we address growth and its effects. As the department that is responsible for the Comprehensive Plan, DPD is in a unique position to both educate and guide the City and the community in the ongoing challenges of growth and creating and maintaining a diverse, healthy community.

The Commission is also pleased with the reorganization of the Plan to include a specific element on the Urban Villages concept. This provides a needed overall context for the Comprehensive Plan and its other elements. This is an important action because it confirms that this overall concept for managing growth really is working in most of the areas designated for growth.

The Commission's detailed comments are provided in the attached matrix and is organized by Comprehensive Plan Element and proposed amendments by the public and City Council. In some cases the Commission has no comments, which indicates its agreement with the amendment as written.

We are happy to meet with you and your staff to discuss these comments and look forward to working with you as these amendments move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Blomberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George Blomberg
Chair

cc: Diane Sugimura, DPD
John Rahaim, DPD
City Council Members
Rebecca Herzfeld, Council Central Staff
Bob Morgan, Council Central Staff