

From: [Sarah Jaynes](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Shari Winstead](#); [Chris Eggen](#); [Keith McGlashan](#); [Will Hall](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Jesse Salomon](#); [Chris Roberts](#); [Miranda Redinger](#); [Steve Szafran](#)
Subject: RE: Comments for 3/16/15 Shoreline City Council Meeting
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 12:38:07 PM

I am confused and am hoping to get some clarification. The city and city planners have said over and over again that eminent domain will not be used. For example the March, 2015 Currents Newsletter stated on page 7

“Will the City force me to sell my home? Will the City take my property through eminent domain? The answer is no to both questions.”
(<http://www.cityofshoreline.com/home/showdocument?id=19877>).

On February 19, 2015 the 185th Station Citizens Committee shared a response from the city manager to KIRO. It said

“City will not take any property for redevelopment because of the rezone. No one will be required to move because of the rezone. If someone wishes to sell their property to another party, they can. If they do not wish to, they do not have to.”
(<https://www.facebook.com/#!/185SCC/photos/pcb.941778385833970/941777785834030/?type=1&theater>)

One last example is from the Shoreline Area News that was published on September 27, 2014. The headline reads *“City will not use eminent domain to redevelop property around light rail stations.”* The article goes on to further state *“the City will not be using its eminent domain authority to purchase property around light rail stations for redevelopment. All redevelopment in the station areas will be market driven by private parties.”*
(<http://www.shorelineareanews.com/2014/09/city-will-not-use-eminent-domain-to.html>)

I looked up the definition of redevelop. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as *“to change the appearance of an area by repairing and adding new buildings, stores, **ROADS**, etc.”* (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/redevelop>)

Based on these examples and all the other times I have heard or read at 185th station meetings that eminent domain would not be used I had come to the conclusion that the city will not be using eminent domain. My confusion results from the same September 27, 2014 Shoreline Area News article that goes on to say *“Is there any instance where the City may use its eminent domain authority in relation to light rail and the station areas? Yes. It is possible that the City will need to use its eminent domain authority for infrastructure improvements in the subareas.”* That sounds like redevelopment to me and something that the city has said over and over again they will not do, that only private parties would engage in.

This is a direct contradiction to the article's headline and most of the content in that article. It is a contradiction to the other official statements and communications by the city. Is Shoreline Area News reporting incorrect information or is the city providing misleading and untruthful information about whether eminent domain is expected in the future? If it is the latter I find this incredibly unethical and feel this whole rezoning process needs to stop immediately, the lying needs to be addressed and corrected and people need to be educated on the truth. Every single person who may be affected by eminent domain needs to individually be contacted and then have the chance to look the council in the eye and tell them exactly how they feel about their property being seized to accommodate an extreme rezoning that is largely not needed, not wanted by the majority of Shoreline citizens and not recommended by most experts.

If eminent domain is what is being planned I am guessing it would be for the larger roads like 185th Street and Meridian. It could also be for the council's dream of street grids for all we know though. I've seen a rendering of a potential 185th Street. The changes in that picture don't show additional lanes to accommodate additional traffic from areas outside the subarea but it shows the addition of larger pretty sidewalks and bike lanes (see page 50 at <http://shorelinewa.gov/home/showdocument?id=18959>). Who would be using these sidewalks and bike lanes? People living in the immediate area. People who moved to that area as a result of the rezoning and the resulting higher density. So what is the truth? Will the city be using eminent domain or not?

Sarah Jaynes

Concerned Citizen of Shoreline and Registered Voter