

From: robertshook@comcast.net
To: [Chris Eggen](#)
Subject: Proposed 185th Rezone
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 3:35:36 PM

Mr. Eggen,

As a 46 year resident of Shoreline (born here) and a resident within the proposed rezone site, I strongly object to the proposed rezone and the way the Council has preceded in getting to this point.

I am a supporter of light rail, but do not support the rezone as it currently exists. It is far too radical and has too few ties to the actual addition of light rail in Shoreline. Light rail seems to be mostly an excuse to increase the tax-base on the backs of the residents of the proposed rezone area who, like me, bought their houses with the expectation that the area would remain a low-density residential area.

As a lifelong Shoreline resident, I am vehemently opposed to any plan that strives to change Shoreline into something that resembles neighborhoods like Ballard or Fremont that contain more concrete than trees. There is much work that the Council can do in the *existing* business corridors to grow and attract viable and community-based businesses in lieu of allowing developers the ability to destroy the single-family residential landscape that my neighbors and I moved to Shoreline for in the first place.

Affordable housing?

I have heard the council's argument that the rezone will allow for more affordable housing. For the last 20+ years, Shoreline has been more affordable than most the neighborhoods in Seattle, Kirkland and Bellevue. I support affordable housing, and fully recognize the need for it, but the proposed rezone will not accomplish that to any large degree. It also would favor developers much more than it would low income residents. Moreover, if the City Council's proposed rezone and future plan comes to fruition, Shoreline would not be a more affordable community to live in. Just look at any area with a similar look to the Council's 'Future Look of Shoreline' and you'll find rents and housing prices that are 20-40% higher than comparable properties in Shoreline.

The rezone won't force anyone to sell their property, right?

If the Council's vision of my house being surrounded by businesses and multi-family units comes to pass, and instead of seeing trees, wildlife and the aesthetically appropriate houses of my neighbors out of my back window I see parking lots and multifamily units blocking the

out sky with their windows looking into my backyard, I will want nothing else but to sell my home and will most definitely feel that I have been forced to sell by the City Council. However, the rezone almost guarantees that I will be unable to sell my home, my life's *investment*, to anyone other than a developer, potentially undercutting what my house is currently worth, not to mention enabling developers to further inflict their profit driven agenda upon my neighbors.

Who benefits?

I find it disgusting, and given how this whole process has unfolded, not surprising that **NOT ONE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS LIVE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED REZONE**. How can you possibly say you represent the people of Shoreline? You clearly do not represent me, my interests, or any of the interests of the many neighbors of mine that I have talked to. Most of the public comment that I have read have been for light rail but opposed to the radical rezone proposals and the proposal as it currently exists. The rezone clearly favors developers over the current residents of Shoreline who are not looking to sell out to developers.

Just because you CAN grow a tax base, doesn't mean you should. First you need to ask yourself if you are growing the tax base in a way that servers the CURRENT residents that you were ELECTED by the people of Shoreline to represent, and to what end?

In Conclusion

It saddens me to the point of anger that the neighborhood I grew up in and decided to call my home will soon become another one of the overpopulated cookie-cutter neighborhoods designed to raise the tax base rather than to promote a high quality of life.

Please do what is right by the citizens you were elected to serve, and reconsider the rezone you have set into motion. It's not too late to do what's right for the citizens you represent, who live here NOW.

Sincerely,

Robert Shook

46 year resident, homeowner and voter in Shoreline.

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