



North Seattle
Industrial
Association

July 2, 2015

The Honorable Ed Murray
Mayor, City of Seattle
PO Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Dear Mayor Murray:

Ballard, and District 6 more broadly, is shocked to learn of your proposal to establish two out of seven transitional encampments in our neighborhood, one at 2826 NW Market Street and a second at 8030 15th Ave NW.

Putting aside the enormous challenge this poses for our Ballard community, most troubling is the fact that none of our leaders or constituents were consulted in your selection process. In fact, we had no knowledge that the site selection process was underway. A phone call alerting us to the initiative two hours before your press release was issued is unacceptable.

For more than eighteen months, the Ballard Chamber of Commerce, business and residential leaders have been actively engaged with the Department of Planning and Development (DPD). We've been partnering and working together to create a comprehensive Urban Design Framework for Ballard. Given this history of collaboration, it is difficult to understand why neither your office nor DPD reached out to seek our input and consultation. Had we known about the site review process, we could have helped organize the community, reviewed potential locations and convened proactive conversations with businesses and residents alike. And we could have helped garner support.

At this stage, we feel it is important to communicate clearly that our trust in your office and DPD has been shaken.

The establishment of transitional encampments is a critical issue for Ballard's commercial and industrial businesses as well as the residential stakeholders in our community. For the following reasons, we believe the site at 2826 NW Market Street is particularly inappropriate for a transitional encampment:

1. It is only 5 short blocks from Adams Elementary School and Ballard Community Center.
2. It abuts directly against a high density residential area, with townhomes and apartments just a few feet away.
3. Market Street serves as a gateway to and from historic downtown Ballard and the Chittenden Locks and Golden Gardens. This route is very busy for local residents, Seattle visitors and tourists who travel through this gateway corridor by car, bicycle and foot.

4. Ballard already accommodates more than its fair share of the city's homeless population, including hundreds of vehicle residents. Establishing this encampment even temporarily will only expand the problem we already face from Fremont/Ballard to the southeast, under the Ballard Bridge, through downtown Ballard and Ballard Commons Park, all the way out to the Locks.
5. Ballard is already underserved by the Seattle Police Department, despite its massive growth in recent years and significant public safety and nuisance issues.

Here's How We Can Begin Working in Partnership on Transitional Encampments

Put the brakes on this process immediately.

Before you submit any proposal to the Seattle City Council for approval, we request that you provide us an opportunity to meet with you at the 2826 NW Market Street site. In order to responsibly assess this location, you should walk the neighborhood and speak with businesses, property owners, and families who will be affected by your decision.

In addition, we deserve to know more about how your office and DPD made the decision to designate 2826 NW Market Street as a "preferred" site and why there was no effort to coordinate with the community.

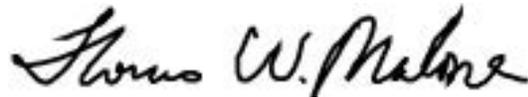
We also want to know why this site was chosen as a preferred site over 8030 15th Ave NW and the other 130+ locations your office and DPD reviewed. In short, we need a full examination of the decision-making process to date. To that end, we ask that you and DPD share the complete list of properties that were considered for transitional encampments and engage with us now to find a suitable alternative to 2826 NW Market Street.

Based on our history of positive collaboration, we believe our relationship is strong enough to recover. We look forward to continuing our work with you and DPD, including the issue of transitional encampments.

Sincerely,



Mike Stewart
Ballard Chamber of Commerce



Tom Malone
Ballard Partnership for Smart Growth



Mike Kahrs
Central Ballard Residents Association



Eugene Wasserman
North Seattle Industrial Association

Cc:

Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien
Diane Sugimura, Director, Department of Planning and Development