

**BEFORE THE HEARING EXAMINER
CITY OF SEATTLE**

In the Matter of the Citation Issued to

Citation: 80801

Holtz

STEPHEN HOCHHALTER

by the Director, Seattle Department
of Transportation for violation of the
Street Use Code

**MITIGATION
HEARING
DECISION**

On January 16, 2025, the Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), as authorized by SMC 15.91.004, served a Notice of Citation, assessing a **\$1258.00** penalty to **Stephen Hochhalter** for violation of the provisions of the Seattle Municipal Code pertaining to:

- **No permit obtained (SMC 15.04.010)**
- **Failure to comply with conditions of permit (SMC 15.04.010)**

Stephen Hochhalter requested a hearing to mitigate the violation. That hearing was held on February 13, 2025. At the time of the hearing, SDOT records indicated that the conditions giving rise to the issuance of the citation had not been corrected.

DECISION

As provided by SMC 15.91.010, **Stephen Hochhalter** is found to have committed the violation alleged in the citation.

___ The evidence presented at hearing supports the request that the penalty be reduced because:

___ The violation was caused by the act, neglect, or abuse of another.

or

___ Correction was commenced promptly prior to citation, but full compliance was not achieved due to challenges by the appellant with the City permitting system.

OR

 x The evidence presented at hearing does not support the request that the penalty be reduced. Mitigation is only possible when a matter is in compliance and compliance had not yet been achieved at the time of hearing. Further, the record indicates a significant delay on Appellant's behalf to come into compliance. The Appellant indicated concern with usability of the City

permit system, but also indicated familiarity with that system as he has at least two other active permits.

OR

_____ The Appellant failed to appear at the hearing. The appeal is dismissed by order of default, in accordance with Hearing Examiner Rule 3.14.

PENALTY

On the basis of the above, **Stephen Hochhalter** is assessed **\$1,258.00** which is now due and payable.

NOTE: If a check or money order, or credit or debit card payment [Visa and MasterCard only] in the amount stated in the above Decision has not been received at the following address within 15 days of the date of this decision, the outstanding penalty will be referred to a collection agency, and the costs of collection will be added to the penalty: **City of Seattle, Office of Hearing Examiner, P.O. Box 94729, Seattle, WA 98124-4729**. Make checks or money orders payable to the "City of Seattle." Credit and debit cards are accepted in-person and over the phone.

Entered this 13th day of February, 2025.

/s/Ryan Vancil
Ryan P. Vancil, Hearing Examiner

CONCERNING FURTHER REVIEW

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the person seeking to appeal a Hearing Examiner decision to consult Code sections and other appropriate sources, to determine applicable rights and responsibilities.

The decision of the Hearing Examiner is the final administrative decision of the City of Seattle. Any request for judicial review of the decision must be made by application to King County Superior Court for a writ of review as provided in Chapter 7.16 RCW.

If the Superior Court orders a review of the decision, the person seeking review must arrange for and initially bear the cost of preparing a verbatim transcript of the hearing. Instructions for preparation of the transcript are available from the Office of Hearing Examiner PO Box 94729, Seattle, Washington 98124, (206) 684-0521, and on the Hearing Examiner's website: seattle.gov/examiner.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that on this date I sent true and correct copies of the attached **MITIGATION HEARING DECISION** to each person listed below, or on the attached mailing list, in the matter of **STEPHEN HOCHHALTER** Hearing Examiner File: **CITATION 80801** in the manner indicated.

Party	Method of Service
Appellant Stephen Hochhalter buildworx@icloud.com	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-office Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Messenger
Department Allison Holtz Allison.holtz@seattle.gov SDOT Inquiries DOT_SU_Inquiries@seattle.gov DOT_PublicSpace publicspace@seattle.gov	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. First Class Mail, postage prepaid <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-office Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Messenger

Dated: February 13, 2025

/s/ Sarah Grant
Sarah Grant, Administrative Specialist