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BEFORE THE HEARING EXAMINER  
FOR THE CITY OF SEATTLE

In the Matter of the Appeals of  
WALLINGFORD COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL, ET AL.  
  
Of Adequacy of FEIS Issued by the  
Director, Office of Planning and  
Community Development

Hearing Examiner File:  
W-17-006 through  
W-17-014

DECLARATION OF RENE COMMONS IN  
SUPPORT OF (I) (1) JUNCTION  
NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION'S  
RESPONSE TO MOTION TO DISMISS CLAIMS;  
(2) CROSS MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
JUDGMENT AS TO INADEQUATE  
ALTERNATIVES AND (3) MOTION FOR  
SUMMARY JUDGMENT AS TO FAILURE OF  
MHA EIS TO DESCRIBE INCONSISTENCY WITH  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; **AND**  
  
(II) MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AS TO  
CITY'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE  
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF  
SIGNIFICANCE RELATING TO MHA EIS

RENÉ COMMONS declares as follows:

1. I am a resident of the West Seattle Junction Urban Village and the former director of the Junction Neighborhood Organization ("JuNO"). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and I am competent to testify to the same.

2. JuNO is a non-profit organization made up volunteers that strive to keep the Junction neighborhood a unique, vibrant and connected community.

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1           3.     In October 2016 I was the director of JuNO and had been for six years (March 2010-  
2 April 2017).

3           4.     In my work as Director for JuNO I advocated to support of the City of Seattle  
4 Neighborhood Design Guidelines to improve our neighborhood in land use review of the  
5 developments taking place. JuNO was at the table for the West Seattle Triangle Rezone. JuNO was  
6 active in Design Review 2010-2017. The Neighborhood Design Guidelines were not enforced by the  
7 city of Seattle in Design review for many years and so our community had to attend meetings and  
8 work with developers to help them understand the goals of the community (same goals of the  
9 Neighborhood Design Guidelines). Eventually, after legal challenge of the review process in 2015 by  
10 our community, the Neighborhood Design Guidelines were ruled to be adhered to by the Design  
11 Review board. Significant public benefits were achieved for our community in this development  
12 phase. In some projects JuNO raised support of the greater West Seattle community, the Seattle City  
13 Council, and the presiding Mayor(s). Resulting from these were two mid-block connectors and  
14 permanent art installations in the Junction's retail core on the Junction 47 and Wolfe buildings  
15 (California Ave. between Alaska and Edmunds). JuNO also helped attain the pedestrian thoroughfare  
16 at the Whitaker (Alaska & Fauntleroy). JuNO engaged with the City of Seattle to support the  
17 Fauntleroy Boulevard Improvement Project.

18           5.     I first learned of the City's plan to rezone all single-family zoned properties within the  
19 Junction Urban Village from an article in the West Seattle Blog that was published on October 201,  
20 2016.

21           6.     I immediately began receiving communications from many West Seattle Junction  
22 community members who had also been totally unaware of this plan until reading it on the West  
23 Seattle Blog. Many of these people are involved in the West Seattle Junction community.

1           7. I contacted the City and arranged for Nicholas Welch, a member of the City’s “HALA  
2 team” to come speak at a JuNO community meeting on November 15, 2016. JuNO did its best to get  
3 the word out to community members.

4           8. At the November 15, 2016, I was surprised to hear Mr. Welch tell the assembled group  
5 that the plan to rezone the Junction Urban Village was a result of community input as I would  
6 certainly have been aware of any opportunities for Junction residents to give input on such an  
7 impactful proposal.


8           9. I was further dismayed that Mr. Welch indicated that, notwithstanding that the  
9 community was just hearing about this for the first time, the City had progressed far enough in its  
10 planning that it intended to release an environmental impact statement with respect to the massive  
11 rezone proposal in February 2017.

12           10. In January 2017, Jesseca Brand of the City’s Department of Neighborhoods and a  
13 member of the City’s HALA team informed me that the City, in all cases, intended to rezone every  
14 single family parcel within the Junction Urban Village, regardless of neighborhood feedback.

15           ///

16           11. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the  
17 foregoing information is true and correct.

18           DATED this 23 day of April, 2018.

19   
20 René Commons

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