



**City of Seattle
Mayor Edward B. Murray**

December 6, 2016

Honorable Bruce Harrell, President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98199

Dear Council President Harrell:

I am pleased to transmit the attached legislation to transfer ownership of former Fire Station 39 to the Low-Income Housing Institute (LIHI) for the purposes of building affordable multi-family housing and preschool programs in the Lake City neighborhood. The former Fire Station 39 site was designated as surplus property and is no longer needed by any City department. Using publicly owned surplus property to build new affordable housing is one of the highest impact recommendations in the City's Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA).

In July 2015, I outlined my vision to address Seattle's affordability crisis in "*Housing Seattle: A Roadmap to an Affordable and Livable City*," consistent with the HALA Advisory Committee's recommendations. A central HALA recommendation is the prioritized use of City-owned surplus property—such as former Fire Station 39—for affordable housing, including the disposition of such property for purposes of developing affordable housing. If enacted, this legislation brings us one step closer to implementing the comprehensive strategy outlined in HALA to address the affordability crisis facing our city.

Specifically, the proposed legislation would authorize transferring ownership of former Fire Station 39 property to LIHI contingent on the project including at least 70 units of affordable housing for income eligible households at or below 60% of Area Median Income comprised of a mix of studios, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, and commercial space suitable for childcare or preschool programs.

I look forward to working with you to realize the vision of promoting and fostering an inclusive and equitable city where people of all backgrounds can find affordable homes in walkable, livable neighborhoods. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact Fred Podesta, Director of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services, at (206) 386-0041.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Murray
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council