



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

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

April 16, 2019

Dear Council President Harrell:

I am pleased to transmit the attached Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan and rezone legislation. Visioning began over a decade ago for the Fort Lawton redevelopment and has included a broad range of stakeholders, including Magnolia residents. The Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan balances Seattle's critical need for affordable housing for households with low incomes and permanent housing for persons experiencing homelessness with the climate and livability benefits of parks and open space. With Fort Lawton, Seattle has an unparalleled opportunity to acquire publicly owned land, largely for free and below-market rates, to create up to 238 units of housing, including supportive housing united for seniors, including veterans, who have experienced homelessness; apartments for renter households with incomes up to 60% of area median income; and townhomes and rowhouses for low-income homebuyers earning up to 80% of the area median income. The other 21 acres of the site will become park and recreation land.

Public outreach for visioning of the Fort Lawton site began in 2006. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined the Fort Lawton redevelopment application, approved by City Council in 2008, to comply with federal requirements. A Court of Appeals ruling upheld a court decision that the State Environmental Policy Act was required to be applied prior to City Council adoption of legislation. The FEIS for a modified plan, scoped with public input, was completed in 2018. This updated Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan operationalizes many of the goals originally expressed by the community over a decade ago.

I look forward to working with you on this exciting and important project.

Sincerely,

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council