



# Seattle City Council

## Central Staff – Divided Report

For consideration at Full Council

**Committee:** Planning, Land Use and Sustainability (PLUS)  
**Council Bill Number:** 118470  
**Short Title:** Amendments to Comp Plan: FLUM and University Community Urban Center Neighborhood Plan  
**Full Council Date:** October 12, 2015  
**Analyst:** Eric McConaghy and Ketil Freeman

### Overview

Council Bill (CB) 118470 proposes amendments to Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan in the form of changes to the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) and policies in the University Community Urban Center Neighborhood Plan resulting from Seattle Department of Planning and Development’s work with stakeholders in the University District.

### History of Legislation

On September 29, 2015, the Committee voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, by the Full Council

**Yes** 2 (O’Brien and Burgess)  
**No** 1 (Licata)

PLUS was briefed on the proposed amendments and held a public hearing on September 15, 2015. On September 29, 2015 the Committee discussed the Council Bill, approved housekeeping amendments and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, to the Full Council. Councilmember O’Brien requested that a divided report be prepared in advance of Full Council action anticipated on October 12, 2015.

At the same time, PLUS considered amendments to CB 118469 and CB 118471. Collectively, these bills constitute the Mayor’s proposal to amend the Comprehensive Plan in 2015.

Simultaneous with the aforementioned legislation, the Mayor proposes, and PLUS has considered and recommended passage of an additional bill, CB 118518. The changes to Seattle’s Municipal Code in this Council Bill would lower State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) categorical exemption levels for infill residential and commercial development.

### Majority Position (O’Brien and Burgess)

We support the proposal to amend the FLUM and policies in the University Community Urban Center Neighborhood Plan as an appropriate response to community priorities and concerns

voiced during various planning processes over the past three years, and grounded in work beginning in the 1990's.

We urge passage of CB 118111 by the Full Council as amended.

**Minority Position (Licata)**

While I recognize the significant involvement of members of the public and the work of City staff over the past few years in planning efforts, I believe that there remains more work to do to fully incorporate the concerns of the community. In particular, I am concerned that the changes to the Future Land Use Map could prepare the way for zoning changes that could detrimentally affect the character of the University Community Urban Center and potentially displace residents of existing affordable and low income housing.

For these reasons, I do not find this proposal ripe for action. I urge the Full Council to vote “no” on CB 118470.