

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

..title

A RESOLUTION recognizing the value of Equitable Development Agreements and outlining how the agreements may be considered when evaluating the required community engagement processes and public benefit packages associated with street vacations and large development projects that are subject to review by the City Council.

..body

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Initiative began in 2005 with the mission of overcoming institutional racism by changing City policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution 31164 directing City departments to focus on achieving racial equity in the community including specific focus areas including equitable development; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City Council adopted Resolution 31577, affirming that The City of Seattle’s core value of race and social equity is one of the foundations on which the Comprehensive Plan is built and stating the that “race and social equity planning includes not only shared benefits and burdens of growth and investment, but also partnership in the process resulting in shared decision-making and more equitable outcomes;” and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that throughout Seattle’s history, certain populations and neighborhoods prospered at the expense of others; and redlining, racially restrictive covenants, and discriminatory real-estate practices resulted in increased wealth in white neighborhoods and poverty in historically redlined communities; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that with Seattle’s rapid growth, the benefits and burdens of growth have not been shared equally and have resulted in persistent disparities in income, unemployment rates and homeownership; and

1 WHEREAS, the City is committed to addressing displacement and equitable development  
2 through our Equitable Development Initiative and other policies and practices; and

3 WHEREAS, the City’s 2016 Growth and Equity Analysis defines equitable development as  
4 “[p]ublic and private investments, programs, and policies in neighborhoods taking into  
5 account past history and current conditions to meet the needs of marginalized populations  
6 and to reduce disparities so that quality of life outcomes such as equitable access to  
7 quality education, living wage employment, healthy environment, affordable housing and  
8 transportation, are equitably distributed for people currently living and working here, as  
9 well as for new people moving in;” and

10 WHEREAS, the Council has demonstrated interest and commitment to pursuing creative  
11 strategies for equitable development including hosting a Lunch-and-Learn on Community  
12 Benefits Agreements on January 11, 2016, with community experts from across the  
13 country and local organizations interested in equitable development; and

14 WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that the outcomes of third party agreements between  
15 developers and equitable development community stakeholders can result in outcomes  
16 that can work toward City goals of race and social equity; NOW, THEREFORE,

17 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
18 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

19 Section 1. The City of Seattle (City) recognizes the value of community driven Equitable  
20 Development Agreements (EDAs). An EDA is a community benefits agreement (CBA) rooted  
21 in the needs and self-determination of stakeholders that have been historically marginalized in  
22 society or the economy. CBAs are third-party agreements between a developer and community.  
23 CBAs emerged as a tool for people negatively impacted by growth and development to

1 participate in the benefits of a specific project, though over time CBAs have become more  
2 ambiguous and do not always include equity stakeholders.

3         Section 2. The City Council may acknowledge the existence of an EDA when: (1)  
4 reviewing a petitioner’s or applicant’s proposed public benefit package that is a required  
5 component of a street vacation petition, an application to adopt or amend a major institution  
6 master plan, or any other applications for large development projects that are subject to review  
7 by the City Council; and (2) evaluating the community engagement process.

8         Section 3. The City Council recognizes that EDAs are not a required component of street  
9 vacation petitions or development applications; the City is not a party to EDAs; and the City is  
10 not responsible for implementing or enforcing EDAs.

11         Section 4. When reviewing an EDA, Councilmembers may consider:

12         A.         EDA Stakeholders: Racial and social equity requires centering the people who  
13 have been marginalized in decision-making and have been historically harmed by economic  
14 inequality, racial discrimination, or social exclusion. EDA stakeholders include organizations or  
15 institutions representing: low-income households; people of color, immigrants, refugees and  
16 indigenous people; people experiencing homelessness; seniors and people with disabilities;  
17 people who need economic opportunity and face institutional barriers (such as racism or sexism)  
18 to good jobs; low-wage workers impacted by a project in some way, either as current workers at  
19 another location or the future workforce at the project location, especially women and people of  
20 color; and LGBTQ people, especially those at risk of displacement from historically queer-  
21 friendly neighborhoods. EDAs are entered into by EDA stakeholders. The City Council shall  
22 consider if the EDA reflects a process that actively centered individuals and organizations  
23 representing historically marginalized communities in the decision-making process.

1           B.       EDA Outcomes: The City Council may opine on the degree to which the EDA  
2 will foster equitable development outcomes identified by the EDA stakeholders. Factors include,  
3 but are not limited to, the degree to which the EDA:

- 4                   a.       Addresses historic and current racial and social injustice;
- 5                   b.       Advances self-determination and control of resources for marginalized  
6 groups;
- 7                   c.       Preserves community dignity and culture;
- 8                   d.       Creates economic equity, especially through increased community wealth,  
9 local prosperity, and family-supporting jobs;
- 10                  e.       Fosters workplace dignity and democracy;
- 11                  f.       Prevents residential, commercial, and cultural displacement of  
12 communities;
- 13                  g.       Preserves and supports small, community serving, and culturally relevant  
14 businesses;
- 15                  h.       Creates equity outcomes that are proportionate to the scale of private  
16 wealth generation for the developer and investors;
- 17                  i.       Considers the role future property owners, tenants, subtenants, operators,  
18 contractors, or other entities who occupy the development, will have in working towards  
19 equitable outcomes identified in the EDA; and
- 20                  j.       Results in a binding agreement between a developer or project owner and  
21 EDA stakeholders with lasting benefits.

1           Section 5. The City Council may consider best practices when opining on the  
2 effectiveness of an EDA, including whether the EDA includes explicit plans for community  
3 accountability, implementation, and enforcement.

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