

# 2022 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
SDCI	004	A	001

**Budget Action Title:** Request that SDCI report on Design Review program outcomes, process improvements, and equity

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Dan Strauss

Council Members: Tammy Morales, Lorena González

Staff Analyst: Ketil Freeman

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

## Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent would request that the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) convene a stakeholder group and provide a report to the Council on Design Review Program outcomes.

The stakeholder group should have organizational and community representation including, but not limited to, affordable housing advocates and developers, design professionals, SDCI staff, density advocates, and individual representatives or members from neighborhood organizations that participate in Design Review Board meetings. Membership in the stakeholder group should include BIPOC professional and residents.

The group would conduct a Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) analysis of the Design Review Program and report to the Council on the outcomes of that analysis. That would include an analysis of whether the program creates barriers to participation for BIPOC residents, either as applicants, board members, or public participants, and whether the program creates or reinforces racial exclusion. In addition to the RET, the report to Council should also include the following:

- (1) Design Review Program outcomes since the program was modified in 2017, including review times by design review type and project complexity;
- (2) An analysis of departures sought through the program that quantifies the number and percentage of projects, by design review and project type, seeking departures, identification of departures sought, and whether those departures were granted;
- (3) An analysis of whether the program increases housing costs;
- (4) A review of national best practices for design review programs with significant public participation components; and
- (5) Recommendations for how the program should be modified to address the findings of the stakeholder group.

SDCI should report to the Land Use & Neighborhoods Committee, or its successor, by June 30, 2022.

## Responsible Council Committee(s):

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Land Use & Neighborhoods

**Date Due to Council:**

June 30, 2022