

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF SEATTLE

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2016 FEB 16 PM 4:05

CITY CLERK

In the matter of the Application of

SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER

For approval of a Major Institution Master Plan

C F 311936

**Reply to Responses
of Swedish Medical Center, Cherry Hill
And Sabey Corporation by
Dean Paton, CAC Representative**

I will keep this Reply brief, and begin by pointing out that I am not an attorney. I do not think like attorneys and do not get paid hundreds of dollars an hour to obfuscate on behalf of wealthy and powerful institutions. As I noted in my Appeal, I am a journalist, a specialist at one thing: listening to what people say and then and quoting them with fact-checkable accuracy. Because of this skill, I have worked since 1999 for one of the most trusted newspapers in the world, The Christian Science Monitor.

I bring this up because, on page 29 of the Response prepared by attorneys for Swedish, they impugn not only my abilities but also my motives. They assert that the

words of former Department of Neighborhoods staff lead Steve Sheppard, which they condescendingly call “quotations”—with their quotes added—“happen to coincide perfectly with Mr. Paton’s narrative.”

In fact the opposite is true: It was Mr. Sheppard’s narrative that essentially created mine—which is to say the things Mr. Sheppard told me about the ways he watched Swedish representatives abuse and manipulate this public process was something he believed citizens should oppose any way they could. (Of course, for obvious reasons, Mr. Sheppard was not in position to do so; but, after 40 years of this work, he cared deeply about the MIMP process, and it’s why he told me what was happening out of the public eye with the Swedish Cherry Hill MIMP.)

I included Mr. Sheppard’s story in my Appeal, and not in my testimony at earlier hearings, because I believed the prudent recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the unanimous objections of Cherry Hill residents would bring a fair and measured decision from the Hearing Examiner. When that did not occur, it seemed essential to provide the Council with the important details Mr. Sheppard’s insider perspective offers.

I encourage you to subpoena Mr. Sheppard and have him provide you with full details, not merely the abridged versions he passed along to me. I would love for the real story to be read into the record. I’d be sure to attend to hear the responses of Swedish and Sabey Corporation. We all enjoy being vindicated.

As for the remainder of my Appeal, I continue to stand by every word of it, as well as by the Appeals of the others arguing for a MIMP that truly balances the needs of the institution with the health and livability of the surrounding neighborhood.

I urge the Council to reject the Application of Swedish Medical Center, Cherry Hill, and instead adopt the lower-height and lesser-scale recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee, which were the result of an assiduous process by committed members representing the communities involved—and which are more in keeping with the intent as well as the spirit of the City of Seattle Land Use Code and the Seattle Comprehensive Plan.

As I said in my Appeal, the City Council is truly the citizens' court of last resort. The residents surrounding Swedish Cherry Hill still believe that someone in this process will do the right and reasonable thing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean G. Paton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Dean Paton
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