

2016 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
19	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: DON Historic Preservation process improvements

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Godden; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Lish Whitson

Date		Total	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests that the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) work with the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) and the Seattle Information Technology Department (Seattle IT) to develop a plan for software and process improvements to enable DON’s Historic Preservation program to accept and review applications on-line, to post staff recommendations and board decisions on the web proximate to meetings, and to implement any other process improvements that the Department identifies. The plan should include software and hardware requirements and costs, process improvements identified by the department, training needs and any additional staffing required to implement the plan. The Council requests the plan be submitted to the Council’s Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee by no later than June 30, 2016.

Background

The Mayor’s Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) report states: “the City will improve [its Design Review and Historic Review] processes to continue their important functions in a way that is more predictable, efficient and considers the impacts of the decisions on the cost of housing” (*Housing Seattle: A Roadmap to an Affordable and Livable City*, p. 6.) The average review time for an application for modification to a structure in a historic district is 17 days. However, there is currently not a way for applicants to submit plans electronically for staff to review. In addition, applicants, board members and members of the public are generally not able to read and review staff reports on-line prior to meetings or meeting minutes after

meetings, reducing the transparency and efficiency of the process. The Department of Planning and Development has found that electronic plan submittal and review reduces costs and review times for projects.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods

Date Due to Council: June 30, 2016