



**City of Seattle**  
Edward B. Murray, Mayor  
**Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**  
Kathy Nyland, Director



**UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON**  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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City of Seattle, Dept. of Neighborhoods

Sally Clark – UW  
University of Washington, Office of Regional Affairs

## City of Seattle - University of Washington Community Advisory Committee

July 15, 2015

Mr. Dave LaClergue  
City of Seattle  
Office of Planning and Community Development  
via e-mail: [udistrict@seattle.gov](mailto:udistrict@seattle.gov)

Dear Mr. LaClergue,

RE: University District Rezone Proposal

The City University Citizens Advisory Committee (CUCAC) appreciates the opportunity to review the University District Rezone proposal. CUCAC is made up of residents and neighbors of the University District who care deeply about the University and surrounding neighborhoods.

CUCAC's opinion is that the U District Rezone Proposal sorely lacks adequate public benefit in return for the increase in development potential. Two extensive community input processes leading up to the creation of the 2005 University District Parks Plan and the Open Space Forum of 2014, identified the creation of a central public square as the neighborhood's top open space priority.

The neighborhood is home to one of the best year round farmer's markets in the City. The farmer's market, together with the street fairs and other public activities, provide as much or more public benefit than any of the other measures outlined in the plan, however, the neighborhood is forced to close streets to hold them due to a lack of adequate space. These neighborhood elements are vital to the interests of the community and deserve a permanent venue to ensure their continuance.

We, as residents and neighbors of the University District, believe that this plan should not go forward until a mechanism is identified to create and maintain a central public-space on or adjacent to the future University District light rail station comparable in size to the Sound Transit site (approx. 30,000 sq. ft.) The livability and vitality of the University District requires open space, open and available to the public. If political will cannot be found now, even as an upzone may bestow enhanced property rights worth \$10's of millions to private land holders, when should the community EVER expect to see its public realm improved through the funding and realization of its highest public space priority?

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you to create a public open-space in the University District.

Sincerely,

Matt Fox,  
Co-Chair

John Gaines  
Co-Chair

CC: Sally Clark, University of Washington