

**2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent**

**Ready for Notebook**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
125	2	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** SLI for Friends of Little Saigon Study

**Councilmembers:** Godden; Licata; O'Brien

**Staff Analyst:** Esther Handy

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

**Background:**

In September 2012, the Seattle City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 31403 stating the City of Seattle’s intent to assist the Friends of Little Saigon and other community members in the Little Saigon Neighborhood to explore the feasibility of a mixed-use project that would serve as a positive catalyst to preserve and enhance Little Saigon as a social, cultural and economic hub.

This resolution was developed in the context of a several important City actions in and around Little Saigon, including land use amendments in 2011 that allow increased development in South Downtown, the installation of the First Hill Street Car and land use changes at Yesler Terrace. These changes will likely result in the redevelopment over time of portions of the Little Saigon neighborhood and may cause an increase in land values and rents that could displace existing businesses and community members. Developing a mixed use center is one strategy to help anchor the Vietnamese and other cultural communities in Little Saigon in the face of these changing market conditions.

Since adoption of the resolution in September, Friends of Little Saigon, with support of the Seattle Chinatown International District PDA, developed a draft scope of work for the feasibility study, including each of the potential project components: a cultural center, a night market, a SE Asian Market, a restaurant and housing.

Friends of Little Saigon and community partners are assembling funding for various aspects of this feasibility study and have requested city support for a portion of the project.

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

The Council requests the Office of Economic Development work with the Department of Planning and Development, the Office of Housing, Friends of Little Saigon, the Seattle Chinatown International District PDA and other community partners to develop a plan for the Little Saigon Study. This plan would include:

- 1) An outline of scope of the study;
- 2) Estimated costs for each portion of the study;
- 3) Responsible party for each portion and timeline for work;
- 4) Summary of neighborhood capacity building efforts to develop and steward the study;
- 5) Portion of the study that the City of Seattle would contract for services and the specific deliverables associated with that work;
- 6) How this study relates to other work the City is doing in Chinatown/International District.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Housing, Human Services, Health, & Culture

**Date Due to Council:** March 1, 2013