

## SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

### 38) *Refocusing and prioritizing DON's community outreach and engagement functions* SLI 113-5-A-1

#### **Statement of Legislative Intent:**

The City Council requests the Executive evaluate the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) community outreach and engagement functions and the resources used to support them. This evaluation should result in a report that does the following:

1. Identifies new approaches for implementing community outreach and engagement activities given that fewer resources are available for these activities;
2. Determines DON's most value-added community outreach and engagement activities that help strengthen communication and understanding between the City and neighborhoods and are most effective in engaging people who are unfamiliar with navigating city bureaucracy; and
3. Identifies options for how DON can best support other city departments in working with the community to conduct outreach and implement projects (this piece should be done in cooperation with other city departments);
4. Prioritizes the roles and responsibilities of the Neighborhood District Coordinators (NDCs) based on the responses to # 1, 2, and 3 above;
5. Determines whether the Executive needs to realign DON's 2011- 2012 departmental resources to help implement its primary mission, i.e. community-building and engagement, and if so, how it should be done.
6. As appropriate, addresses how DON's community outreach function can serve to support Council's goal of having the City develop and implement a streamlined approach to the application, evaluation and award of City-funded community grants. (This goal is further articulated in SLI 116-1-A-1.)

As part of its evaluation, the Executive should solicit feedback from the public using a variety of mediums, such as community meetings, online surveys, and focus groups. The Executive should seek feedback from existing stakeholder groups as well as the broader public that may be unaware of DON's services and activities.

While the Executive is carrying out this evaluation, it should provide briefings to the Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee on its progress and interim results.