

**Status Report- Resolution 31291 - Adopted as part of South Downtown Land Use Changes  
Little Saigon Neighborhood Updates  
July 10, 2012**

**Economic Development**

**OED-** For 2012, OED has invested just over \$160,000 in the Chinatown/ID (C/ID) through the Only In Seattle program (OIS). A significant portion of those resources will support the following revitalization and business assistance activities in the Little Saigon neighborhood of C/ID which will be completed by the end of 2012:

- Business technical assistance:
  - Work with community members to develop target plan for business attraction (including list of prospective businesses)
  - Develop business attraction materials to assist with recruitment
  - Case manage business referrals made to business technical assistance providers such as Community Capital Development and the UW Business Economic Development Center.
- Pedestrian and streetscape improvements:
  - Implement storefront façade (new awning and new lighting) improvement near the Viet-Wah grocery store along Jackson Street
  - Implement wayfinding signage (i.e. engage community to complete designs, obtain permit approval, construct) in Little Saigon
- Cleanliness and safety:
  - Develop and implement cleaning contract with Cleanscapes which may include: litter removal; on call support for businesses; pressure washing sidewalks; and/or walk throughs with Cleanscapes to identify hot spots.
  - Expansion of “business block watch” into Little Saigon
- Organizational capacity:
  - Build capacity of ‘Friends of Little Saigon’ (FLS) to support community engagement in key activities such as marketing, pedestrian/streetscape enhancements, and community education on key land-use issues
  - Work with FLS to complete community needs assessment analysis

In addition to the planned 2012 OIS activities in Little Saigon, OED invested one-time CDBG surplus funding in the amount of \$150,000 in 2011 and \$75,000 in 2012 to provide entrepreneurial training and business development with a focus on underserved immigrant communities, citywide. With these funds over 175 East African and Vietnamese entrepreneurs have been served with new 42 business developed. OED is currently seeking additional funding to continue this successful pilot program and in order to serve an additional 150 entrepreneurs annually.

Finally, an important outcome of our work on the HUD Challenge Grant/Neighborhood Equitable Transit Oriented Development (NET) Initiative is the opportunity to scale the business technical assistance program we are developing at the Othello/MLK business node and

replicate the program in other business districts throughout the city, including Little Saigon. Potential areas for business assistance include: customer service, low-cost marketing, merchandising, bookkeeping, and financing.

**DPD/SDOT-** DPD and SDOT developed proposed changes to SMC Title 15 to encourage street food vending and to allow for broader use of public sidewalks for Merchant Display Vending. Council approved these changes in Ordinance 123659 in July 2011. Consequently, merchants that were displaying merchandise on sidewalks in Chinatown/ID and Little Saigon illegally may now do so legally with a street use permit. (Areas within the International Special Review District also require a certificate of approval from the ISRD Board, but much of Little Saigon lies outside the ISRD area).

### **Transportation**

**SDOT-** The First Hill Streetcar is now under construction and will be completed in early 2014. Its alignment includes a segment of S. Jackson Street from 14th Ave. S. west through the heart of the Little Saigon business district. It will provide easy access to Little Saigon from Capitol Hill, First Hill, the balance of the Chinatown/ID and Pioneer Square.

SDOT was also asked to assess on-street parking conditions in the area. Should Community Parking Program funds be available in 2013, SDOT will work with the community to assess on-street parking needs and identify appropriate parking management strategies.

SDOT continues to make traveling through the Rainier-Jackson corridor easier to navigate. Over the past two years, improvements were made to the corridor to improve the speed and reliability of transit and to upgrade the passenger facilities (bus shelters, lighting, etc).

Beginning this fall, SDOT will install signs with real-time bus arrival information along the corridor to help travelers navigate the area more easily. Additionally, SDOT invests directly in added buses on Metro routes 7 and 14, two of the three primary transit routes on Jackson Street.

### **Public Safety and Perceptions of Safety**

**SPD-** The collaboration between West Precinct and East Precinct for the policing of Little Saigon and Chinatown/ID has never been stronger. Neighborhood meetings with many various groups within the Chinatown/ID community and Little Saigon are attended regularly by both East and West Precinct community police team representatives to help facilitate cross coordination and cooperative efforts in providing police service. The effort is being made to help ease the concern regarding both the geographical and precinct boundary separation among these neighborhoods. Additionally, under the auspices of the Center City Initiative, East and West Precincts have representation on the CID/Little Saigon Interdepartmental Team working group developing a holistic, long-term plan for the improvement of Chinatown/ID and Little Saigon. Captain Dermody, having previously served as the East Precinct commander, is building upon the relationship between East and West Precincts. Captain Dermody and Captain Ron Wilson (new East Precinct Commander) are acutely aware of the concerns and issues of Little Saigon and are working to ensure that the seamless integration of police services for both neighborhoods remains a priority. Both East and West Precincts have begun or are continuing

data-driven evidence based “Directed Patrols” in these neighborhoods for which feedback from the neighborhood stakeholders has been positive.

**Clear Alleys Program (CAP)**- DPD and DON are working with a committee comprised of Chinatown/ID stakeholders that is providing oversight for a project that is developing conceptual designs for activating Maynard and Canton Alleys. The work is predicated upon the eventual removal of dumpsters from the alleys. As part of the Mayor’s Center City Initiative, the Mayor’s Office is working with SPU to identify funding that would allow for a phased approach beginning with Maynard and Canton Alleys and then an expansion of the CAP program to the rest of the Chinatown/ID neighborhood. The program is called Clear Alleys because it mostly affects alleys. The prohibition in a CAP area, however, includes any ROW- sidewalks, plazas. Little Saigon is unique in that it does not have alleys. Dumpsters stored in the right of way on the sidewalk are an issue in some parts of the neighborhood, however, and Little Saigon could be considered for future CAP expansion should funding be identified.

### **Parks, Open Space and the Pedestrian Experience**

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation is in the final negotiations for the acquisition of an 11,700 square foot property at 1227 S. Jackson Street that extends through the block to S. King Street. The property is expected to close by the end of 2012. The Department has no immediate plans to develop the property. Due to budgetary challenges, the Department has instituted a land banking policy that discourages development of all new park acquisitions until maintenance and operation funding can be procured.