

#7

R. Conlin
LEG South Lake Union RSJI RES
April 8, 2013
Version #1

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31445

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

A RESOLUTION responding to the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) review of the South Lake Union rezone by the Legislative Department’s RSJI Change Team, and creating a work plan for advancing RSJI goals in response to that review.

WHEREAS, social justice is one of the four core values of the Seattle Comprehensive Plan, which was first developed through a community process in the 1990’s; and

WHEREAS, these core values are intended to guide decision making in City government; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the City carries out its commitment to social justice, as well as its longstanding commitment to ending racism, the City has developed a Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI); and

WHEREAS, the goal of this initiative is to provide information and tools to help City leaders and staff understand issues of race and social justice, and to ensure that the City’s actions accord with its values; and

WHEREAS, often those who are privileged in society by virtue of social and economic standing have the most input to City actions, because they know who to talk to and how to talk to them, and the goal of RSJI is to ensure that the City’s decisions are also informed by the voices of those who are not heard as often; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the City Council asked staff members on the Legislative Department’s RSJI Change Team, a group of staff volunteers, to look at several pieces of legislation to see if applying an RSJI lens would help the Council make inclusive decisions that reflect its social justice values; and

WHEREAS, the Change Team chose the South Lake Union (SLU) rezone for one of its first reviews, and the team completed its work in December, 2012, and formally reported to the Council’s Special Committee on SLU on Monday, February 25, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Change Team’s analysis identified five key areas where opportunities exist to provide more equitable outcomes in SLU:

1. SLU is growing into a “community of opportunity” with access to family-wage jobs, housing, transit and open space;
2. Key areas of potential impact for race and social justice are in housing and jobs;



- 1 3. Risks of displacement of current residents in the Cascade neighborhood may be
mitigated by retaining existing zoning in that area;
- 2 4. There may be opportunities to increase the provision of workforce housing in SLU
through incentive zoning;
- 3 5. Creating pathways for communities of color to access the jobs and opportunity being
created in SLU could help advance racial equity in Seattle; and

4 WHEREAS, the analysis offered five strategies to advance racial equity:

- 5 1. Do not change heights in the Cascade neighborhood;
- 6 2. Maximize affordable housing through incentive zoning;
- 7 3. Use education and job-training partnerships to expand access to job opportunities for
communities of color;
- 8 4. Promote community gathering spaces like a community center or school;
- 9 5. Utilize revenues from a proposed tax increment financing (TIF) program to achieve
social equity goals; and

10 WHEREAS, the Council values and appreciates the work of the Change Team and wishes to
follow up on its recommendations; NOW, THEREFORE,

11 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

12 Section 1: The Council thanks the Change Team for their work, respects the work of the
13 Change Team, and concurs with the analysis and direction suggested by the Change Team.
14

15 Section 2: In response to the Change Team's analysis, the Council will take the following
16 actions:

- 17 A. The Council commits to ensuring that any changes to maximum building heights in the
18 Cascade neighborhood will be targeted to areas where there are vacant lots or
19 significantly underutilized properties, will not create incentives to demolish existing
20 affordable housing, and will increase the opportunity for more housing to be built in the
21 neighborhood. The Council will also consider providing a transfer of development rights
22 provision to encourage preservation of historic, affordable structures.
23



1 B. The Council commits to adopting an incentive zoning program for SLU, to beginning a
2 process to review options for increasing affordable housing, and to taking additional
3 future actions that will increase opportunities for affordable housing.

4 C. The Council requests that the Office of Economic Development coordinate the
5 development of a work plan that will specifically target education and job training
6 partnerships in SLU in order to expand access to job opportunities throughout the
7 neighborhood.

8 D. The Council commits to taking an active role in promoting and finding resources to
9 support community center development in SLU, and to encouraging and facilitating the
10 development of a school to serve the area.

11 E. The Council commits to using the RSJI screening process to guide the investment of
12 future TIF revenues in SLU.

13 Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2013, and
14 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this ____ day
15 of _____, 2013.

16 _____
17 President _____ of the City Council

18
19 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

20 _____
21
22 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

23
24 (Seal)



FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Sara Belz / 4.5382	NA

Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION responding to the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) review of the South Lake Union rezone by the Legislative Department's RSJI Change Team, and creating a work plan for advancing RSJI goals in response to that review.

Summary of the Legislation:

This resolution recognizes the Change Team's report on the South Lake Union rezone proposal and identifies associated next steps to be taken by the Council.

Background:

In 2011, the City Council asked staff volunteers on the Legislative Department's RSJI Change Team to look at several pieces of legislation to see if applying an RSJI lens would help the Council make inclusive decisions that reflect its social justice values. The Change Team chose the SLU rezone for one of its first reviews and the team completed its work in December, 2012, and formally reported to the Council's Special Committee on SLU on Monday, February 25, 2013.

The Change Team's analysis identified five key areas where opportunities exist to provide more equitable outcomes in SLU:

1. SLU is growing into a "community of opportunity" with access to family-wage jobs, housing, transit and open space;
2. Key areas of potential impact for race and social justice are in housing and jobs;
3. Risks of displacement of current residents in the Cascade neighborhood may be mitigated by retaining existing zoning in that area;
4. There may be opportunities to increase the provision of workforce housing in SLU through incentive zoning; and
5. Creating pathways for communities of color to access the jobs and opportunity being created in SLU could help advance racial equity in Seattle.

Their analysis also offered five strategies to advance racial equity in SLU:

1. Do not change heights in the Cascade neighborhood;
2. Maximize affordable housing through incentive zoning;
3. Use education and job-training partnerships to expand access to job opportunities for communities of color;
4. Promote community gathering spaces like a community center or school; and



R. Conlin / S. Belz
LEG South Lake Union RSJI RES
April 9, 2013
Version #1

5. Utilize revenues from a proposed tax increment financing (TIF) program to achieve social equity goals.

Please check one of the following:

This legislation does not have any financial implications.

This legislation has financial implications.

