



June 17, 2016

Mayor and Tacoma City Council
930 Market Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Re: Consider a Design Review Process for the City of Tacoma

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The North End Neighborhood Council requests that the City of Tacoma embark on a community discussion to **consider a Design Review Process** for the City. Recently, a couple of significant projects in the City have raised concerns about early awareness of project design, mass, and scale among citizens of our community.

A **Design Review Process could raise the level of awareness early** in the permitting process to understand the massing, scale, location, code bonus components, and basic design features of a proposed project. The community discussion/assessment could include:

1. **Research of** Design Review/Commissions currently in operation in other jurisdictions. (Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Sumner, Foss Waterway Development Authority, University of Washington)
2. **Develop criteria and issues** for the consideration of a Design Review Process for the City of Tacoma that go beyond the traditional planning/zoning codes.
3. Begin **reaching out to community groups and neighborhoods** to gather information and specific desires for our city as well as unique considerations for each neighborhood.
4. **Establish a committee** to shape an approach for Tacoma.

The current projects being built can be the catalysts to define future design parameters for early project awareness and community input. We look forward to joining the discussion with the City Council, City Departments, community groups, and individual citizens.

The attached comparative matrix of design review processes in a number of municipalities was presented to the NENC by Liza Rutzick, manager of the City of Seattle Design Review Process.

Please let us know what we, as a neighborhood council, can do to further action on this issue.

Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

Morf Morford
Chair
North End Neighborhood Council