

# Appendix D - Notes from POEL Meetings

## Seattle 2035 Community Outreach to Historically Under-Represented Communities

### Summary of POEL Engagement in Summer 2014

Outreach for Seattle 2035 includes a targeted strategy to hear from historically underrepresented communities– the Public Outreach and Engagement Liaison Program managed by Department of Neighborhoods. Liaisons for ten culture communities were recruited and trained to facilitate conversation and solicit feedback about Seattle 2035. The purpose of the first phase of outreach was to provide background on the comprehensive plan and update process, and offer an opportunity for community members to identify issues they would like the plan to address. Specific tasks for 2014 included:

- DPD and DON hosted orientation training for liaisons.
- Liaisons translated a one-page flyer about Seattle 2035 to use for outreach.
- Liaisons performed outreach to recruit community members for a meeting to discuss Seattle 2035.
- Liaisons facilitated a small group meeting held at a community location.
- Liaisons prepared and submitted a meeting report and other documents

Additional outreach is planned for 2015 to solicit more specific feedback on growth alternatives, and draft goals and policies.

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Group Facilitator City Staff	Date of Meeting	# Attending	Location	Translated Brief	Orientation Meeting 7/1/14	Report on Page #
Oromo Abdu Gobeni Jake Hellenkamp, DON	8/28/14 & 8/30/14	15 (10 men, 5 women)	Not recorded	Yes		4
Filipino Cherry Cayabyab	8/29/14; 6-8 pm	15 (4 men; 11 women)	Beacon United Methodist Church 7301 Beacon Avenue So.	Yes		4
Amharic Mekdes Gessesse Katie Sheehy, DPD	9/2/14; 5:15 to 7:00 P.M	11	8323 Rainier Ave S.	Yes		5
Spanish Paulina Lopez	9/10/14; 11am	13 ( 12 woman, 1 man)	South Park Neighborhood Center 8210 10th Ave. S.	Yes  (translated PP)		6
Cambodian Sokunthea Ok Brennon Staley, DPD	8/29/14; 5-7pm	11	311 SW 104th St.	Yes		7
African American Wanda Saunders Cherry Cayabyab, DON	8/28/14; 6-8pm	13 (5 men, 7 women, 1?)  19? on sign in	Rainier Valley Community Center 4600 Ave. S.	N/A		9

Group Facilitator City Staff	Date of Meeting	# Attending	Location	Translated Brief	Orientation Meeting 7/1/14	Report on Page #
Vietnamese Phung Nguyen Patrice Carroll, DPD	8/30/14	16	Rainier Beach Library 9125 Rainier Ave. S.	Yes		10
Somali Saida Aden Kristian Koefed, DPD	8/28/14	19	9061 Seward Park Ave. S.	Yes		11

## Oromo Community Meeting

### Meetings held on 8/28 and 8/30

The community focus group meeting itinerary was distributed to all participants. The objective of the focus group meeting and expectation from the meeting was explained to the participants. After the introduction of the participants the meeting was opened by one of the community elders according to the Oromo culture. The total attendants of the focus group meeting were 15 among them are 10 men and 5 women. There is the diversity within the participants. Elders, youth, business men and people from different location of the city have attended the meeting. Most of them lived in city of Seattle for more than 20 years and they knew the previous development plan of the city and also highly contributed on the new Seattle 2035 project plan. There was also one participant currently working in Henderson community center, addressed some of the community needs and issues in the future plan of the neighborhood. The power point presentation and translated document was given to all participants. The power point presentation was done on the Seattle 2035 project comprehensive plan in detail on each slides. The participants raised questions and comments on each slides. Answers were given by Jake and me. The potential discussion questions selected were on Housing, Transportation, capital facility and community Infrastructure, Economic Development and Neighborhood. The comments and questions raised by most of the participants focused on Housing, Transportation, Capital Facilities and community Infrastructure (culture Resources) questions on Housing were:

- 1. How do the Urban village strategy benefits the low income community members mainly refugees and immigrants?**
- 2. Are the planned houses affordable to immigrants and refugees?**
- 3. The land lords increase the house rent every time without any limit. So, which Department is responsible to set reasonable rent of apartments and to supervise the amount of rent escalating from time to time?**

The tenants are unable to pay this unfair house rent. In Othello area the house rent is increasing from time to time and low income immigrants and refugees are unable to pay it. Because of this problem, low income community members have been pushed out the urban centers. The participants commented on the establishment and strengthening of multicultural community centers in the future plan. They appreciated the current public transportation services and future plan. The existing and the future plan of transit options were also appreciated and the

public transportation services need more attention in the future plan. The schools in in the south Seattle are with poor quality and standards. Children and teenagers learning in those schools couldn't join colleges and universities. This problem is the main cause of some criminal activities in the neighborhood. The participants appreciated the economic growth and development of the city of Seattle even during the time of economic crisis and recession. They raised the importance of integrating the neighborhood plan, goals and policies. They also commented that awareness raising for the community representatives on the future plan is very important. One participant asked about the increasing number of homeless and beggars in down town area if any research was done by the city. All participants agreed to participate on upcoming events of the comprehensive plan. Finally the meeting was closed by community elders according to the culture of Oromo people.

## Filipino Community Meeting

### Meeting held on August 29, 2014

There were several topics presented such as Housing, Transportation, Land Use, Economic Development, Environment, Human Services, Arts and Culture, Capital Facilities and Utilities. The chosen topics were:

#### Housing:

To provide affordable housing for low income families, for people of color; for multi-generational families. People are being displaced due to high rents. To have more housing choices for new immigrants, for people of color, for multi-generational families. People are displaced because they have no housing choices. Build more affordable housing considering the need of the immigrant population-to have lower rents.

Transportation: to fund buses in areas, or neighborhoods that people need to access like the Filipino Community Center and the Drop In Center. People drive their own cars to visit these neighborhoods adding more air pollution. For those who doesn't have transportation, there are issues of safety especially when walking and crossing alone and during bad weather.

Human services:

- Most vulnerable population ethnic communities especially in the 98118 zip code do not have easy access to the information of availability of services to them.
- Informational brochures need to be distributed widely-church, centers, libraries and brochures should be available in the native languages.
- We also have to make sure that we reach out to the communities at all times so they are not afraid or shy to

ask for services.

- D. Health fairs and workshops should be made available widely
- E. Community members should inform one another of what is available to them

### Utilities

- A. How do we make sure that agencies are willing and able to help with the payment of their utilities so as not to get services disconnected?
- B. We have to let the population made aware of the different organizations that are able to provide social services like Asian Counseling and Referral Services; Interim, Chinese Information Service Center, New Holly. etc.
- C. Not easy to get community members to attend informational workshop to keep them informed of what is available to them.
- D. We have to be connected with one another so no one gets left out of the social services that are available.

## Amharic Speaking Community Meeting

Meeting held on 09/02/2014

### Questions and Discussion Points

#### Housing

The city can make housing more affordable by developing policies and strategies which will provide incentive and/or penalize developers. Developers should include housing units which are affordable and subsidized to be inclusive of all income level households. As it is being observed the urban centers are mostly occupied by individuals who earn living wage jobs. Although there are low income individuals who work and go to school in those areas; it's unimaginable to rent and live nearby for most residents because of incomparable cost of rent to their income.

#### To prevent involuntary displacement of historically disinvested individuals and businesses and to keep from being displaced:

- Developers should be in commitment to make few units of buildings affordable
- Some portion of land should still be used to build low income and affordable buildings and this should be part of the redevelopment plan of any neighborhood
- After maintenance of buildings or after redevelopment of neighborhoods; priority and advantage should be given to already existing businesses to buy or rent and it should be

considerable of their income.

- Development should be inclusive and should be socially, environmentally, politically, economically and culturally sustainable.
- Providing capacity development and business training to business owners and individuals

#### Are members of your community able to rent or buy housing in neighborhoods throughout Seattle with single-family housing? If not would more housing choices make it easier to live in those neighborhoods?

- Yes. Most immigrant families would prefer to buy than rent.
- Racial and social justice issue should be part of every program which will enable immigrant population to rent and buy houses in every neighborhoods

#### Economic Development

- Jobs and employment should be spread out though out the city rather than only in the urban villages
- Employment opportunities should also take into consideration refugee and immigrant population and should be inclusive e.g. Job opportunities like manufacturing and business
- Providing microenterprise services (revolving fund)
- Supportive not for profit financial institutions
- Most immigrant populations have background education back home and it should be acceptable here in the city

#### Transportation

- Culturally appropriate businesses should be encourages around station areas
- Incentives for carpoolers
- Public transport should increase especially from Yesler to rainier beach.
- Most immigrants refugee go to school and work up north but transportation has been an issue in these areas
- Why are more buses reduced in the south where there are more refugee and immigrant population?

#### Urban Village Strategy/Urban Design/Transit Communities

- North Rainier, South Rainier and lake city
- Providing capacity development and business training to business owners and individuals

#### Questions from the community:

1. As compared to percentages of the population of Asians there is 5% in the US and triple of that here in Seattle. Is

there any specific reason? While the reverse is true for Black Population?

2. Why is the North Less Diverse than the south of Seattle?
3. Does the new update plan address the issue of segregation? In what way?
4. Before the update plan was brought up for discussion; were there any evaluations done of the previous comprehensive plan? What was your goal/projection in different sectors and how much did you achieve?

## Spanish Speaking Community Meeting

Meeting held on 09/10/2014 at 11 AM

### Highlights

The focus group was very interactive and participatory from community members. Most of them were very interested in the presentation, they told me at the end, it was very interesting!

### Agenda

1. **Introductions and Ice breaker:** First we did a little introduction of everyone. And we imagine ourselves how old would we be in 20 years from now. And how old will be our last child .
2. **Why are we here? Discussion and explanation**
3. **Power Point presentation Seattle 2035**
4. **Group interaction:** What would be some of your concerns in the future with 120 K more people in Seattle:  
Answers ( by group) brainstorming:  
More Crime  
New constructions  
Lots of new housing ( very packed housing)  
More violence  
Less jobs/ more crime  
Too much construction everywhere  
Pollution and damage to the environment  
More garbage and waste  
Higher rents- more demand
5. **Prioritizing community investments/ concerns.**  
Divided in group of 2 for discussion and present to the whole group:  
Human services:  
How do we make sure the City allocate money for Human services for low income people?

How would people will have more access to services? Specially new immigrants? Or, people whose English is the first language?

Budget needs to be higher, and not more cutting Services for low income people.

### Housing

#### What are some of the things to consider when planning housing?

#### How can City provide affordable housing?

The City needs to be prepared to offer more options for people who are in the City, and create policies for affordable housing. - Less discrimination from the landlords for race, and also income and legal status.

Be creative to arrange for large families in multifamily affordable homes.

Keep people in Seattle, not raise rents to outside cities.

Less taxes. It is very expensive now.

### Security

#### Should the City be more concerned about crime of safety?

“We would like to be a safer city:”

“ We are worried our kids are growing up thinking marihuana is normal and now you can smell it everywhere. We smell it in the parks, in the schools.”

If we have more jobs, less likely to be people stealing, or asking for money and committing crime

We would like to see less crime, less drugs available.”

“Also, the police should be more available for low income neighborhoods. They do not come fast when we report crime.”

”More police who speak our language!

”Can we train people to help each other in the community?? ( like block watch) “

### Transportation

#### What can the City plan to improve better transportation? Or, should we improve our system?

\*More buses more buses more buses for poor communities ( in the south we have to wait for one hour)”

“We need more options that are affordable and good for environment. Maybe people can help each other with minivans?”

“Less people driving alone, more people driving together with neighbors and coworkers.”

“The City should not charge to go other cities, they should pay us to come to Seattle (trolls)“

## Education

### How can the City invest in the people that live in the City ?

#### Do we have enough options for Education?

“The City could invest more in special programs for adults to be prepared in this competitive world. Programs like ESL, GED and training Programs for adults and youth”

“The Seniors need more Programs to become a little more independent and less government beneficiaries-- Opportunities for seniors to have jobs.”

“Equal education for all – All the schools should be provided with the best teachers, even in low income neighborhoods.”

## Environment

### How can we improve our quality of water, or air, our environment in general?

“Do not build too many houses instead think about green spaces and parks. “

“We need more places to walk and exercise to be healthier”

“Can we clean the Duwamish River? My family will enjoy there the summer my kids want to swim.”

“Have more access to community parks. Our park in South Park is in bad conditions. There is nothing to do with the youth there. They need to exercise and be given more positive things to do. Maybe sports leagues?”

“I would like to see more people in bikes instead of too much traffic and too many cars”

“Too many trucks driving by neighborhoods. Can the City ask them to only go in the freeways?? I do not like breathing the fumes of the trucks. Bad for my family!”

## Employment

### Should we push for a better living wage? - Is there a lot of opportunities for everyone?

“If you have better income for people, less social services and more people happy working and affording homes. “

“There should be more employment and training for youth. “

“We need salaries that represent all the expenses. Seattle is too expensive to afford it. Mom and Dad have to work in order to live in a decent way.”

“The minimum wage should be for all higher.. not just some groups. “

“Provide enough training in the trades for people who does not have formal education. So we can have better opportunities “

## Conclusion

The Focus group was very interesting ! I loved hearing the participants so engaged and giving lots of input in the discussion. They said they would like to hear more in the future, and possibly have more of this discussions like this .

They got interested in attending the City for hear the conclusions.

## Findings

Some of the slides in the presentation were difficult to understand and to explain.

I translated a little bit in Spanish the power point, to make it a little friendlier.

People are not really used to graphics... it took some time to explain the graphics.

I skipped a couple of slides that seem repetitive

The Urban Village strategy is not very easy to explain.

## Cambodian Community Meeting

### Meeting held on 8/29/2014

#### Potential Discussion Question

#### Urban Village Strategy/Urban Design/Transit Communities

##### 1. Where the best places for the city to encourage growth

FGD: We would like to have more to growth in Southwest Seattle areas; especially, around White Center area where there are a lot of things need to develop. Most of the activities and business are growing only in downtown Seattle; we want to have more opportunity for the Southwest, Southeast, and South areas.

We would like to have more small business, light rail, and more public transportation available to south, southwest, and southeast.

##### 2. How can we minimize displacement of residents and small business?

FGD: The Mayor and everyone can help each other. I feel that on the South area has more some grow but we don't see much around southeast and southwest (around white center). In term of the vision to grow the city, we found out that Seattle is not really attractive enough for the people to live...or tourist to visit. They should have more organize space. We feel sometimes, around South areas, lonely and quiet.

## Land Use

### 1. How do policies for single-family zones affect equity and affordability?

FGD: It is hard with this kind of economic. We should have more investment; we should have a lot of community houses (multiple house with a lot of bedroom) and town house where they can build the small shopping near those houses so that we can do some shopping. We should have balance of multiple houses and other kind of apartments.

## Economic Development

### 1. Should more effort be made to concentrate employment near transit within urban villages?

FGD: Yes, we don't have much job where we can work. Most of the factory jobs in Kent, Bellevue, and Redmond. We want to have job around here so that there are more people come to live. Now a lot of people move to Kent or Renton. We should have more jobs where people who doesn't speak much English or limited English are able to find a job and are able to work. Should develop jobs and work with industry or factory to provide affordable place for the owner of those local enterprises to build and provide jobs. We found out that there are a lot of spaces around Sky Way area which we can use to build more industry or small factory that can create more jobs for people.

### 2. Should a clearer definition and stronger emphasis for living wage jobs be included?

If we work and we cannot afford to pay for the rent, then we have to move where there is fordable and where we work. We can create more jobs so that people can work here and live here.

However, we feel very happy that they move immigration office to Tukwila where there is easy to access.

## Transportation

### 1. What types of uses, amenities and services should the City encourage near station areas

FGD: We would like to develop more jobs and small business, restaurants, gift shops around the stations areas. We still have a lot of space in South Seattle that we can have more small business. We should have small shopping areas so that we can make the station more crowded and attracted to people to use and we should plan flower or decorated small tree that can attract tourist. As we traveled to China, we found out that each station in their cities are safe and crowded, we feel that we just want to stay at the station because it is safe and pretty area to come and have fun.

### 2. How can we reach our goals for reducing the percentage of trip by people who drive alone?

FGD: We should have more public transportation such as light- rail, buses, train and more routes. We should provide some free ride to encourage people to use. We should provide free parking at the light rail station so that we can use more public transportation. We also would like to have more bus services are available to use and fast. The parking fees nowadays are very expensive and sometimes we got a lot of fine when we park the car and use public transportation and we are little bit late due to lake of the buses routes. We have more carpool van available for people to us.

## Capital Facilities & Community Infrastructure

### 1. What sort of city facilities (parks, schools, police, fire, libraries, community centers, maintenance facilities, and office space) do you think are most essential as we welcome over 120,000 new people to Seattle over the next 20 years?

FGD: For us, we wonder why they built the Safeco Field in the middle to traffic jam. It is so annoying. They should be built to the South area where there are a lot of space and easy commute and parking.

For the park, we should create something that would be more open and public to all the cultures, communities, and ethnicities. We should have plan trees in the middle to the road to attract travelers or sometimes we can do the little garden along with the roads. Sometimes if we have the trees in the middle, we can help with the traffic flow.

### 2. Are new policies needed for special buildings and unique places that don't meet the rigorous standard for historic landmarks and districts?

FGD: We would like to have some road that look similar to the Washington DC. We want Seattle to attract people to live and to visit as what we see in Bellevue. We should do a lot of small gardens, plan flowers, and plan little trees.

## Environment

### 1. Climate Action: To reach or climate goals, Seattle need to increase the number of attractive communities where people can walk to schools, shops, transit and maybe even work. Proven strategies include building taller in the most transit rich neighborhoods and transforming aging commercial into mixed-use development. Are there other strategies you would suggest for less dense areas near very good transit service?



FGD: The important is road and when we have enough light. We would like to have hug roads and not a mess like we are having in Seattle right now. We should have beautiful gardens and so on. We all have to work together to make the city look nice. Everyone have to clean their yard. People need to learn from the TV and need to clean the road in front of their own house or apartment.

## Housing

### 1. How can we provide diverse, affordable housing for everyone?

FGD: The city should have more affordable housing for people. The city should have balance with people who are living in the Seattle Housing Authority. We have been applying for almost 7-8 years and we never get a letter or when we went to their office to ask, they said you are on waiting list and we have to wait. But we feel that it is unfair because there a lot of new Somali, Ethiopian, and other families where they are mostly speak the same languages with the people who are working in the office of Seattle House Authority come to live while we are waiting for so long. The public housing should consider about these issues.

### 2. As historically disinvested communities see new development and investment, what strategies and policies can prevent the involuntary displacement of existing residents while welcoming new ones?

FGD: We should have all diverse population.

### 3. Are members of your community able to rent or buy housing in neighborhoods throughout Seattle with single-family housing? If not, would more housing choices make it easier to live in those neighborhoods?

FGD: We would like to have more apartments and multiple family houses.

## Human Development

### 1. Should we call it Human Services to align more closely with policies about the delivery of those services to our most vulnerable populations?

FGD: Yes, we should provide equal opportunity to everyone.

## Neighborhoods

### 1. How do we make sure all neighbors have a voice in neighborhood plan goals and policies as they are revised over time? This may include everyone who lives in, works in, runs a business in, or visits a neighborhood.

FGD:

- Should have representative from each community.
- Provide translation materials
- Conduct outreach
- Provided community education
- Send out the letters
- Broadcast via TV
- Educate all the students in Seattle Public School
- Bring the information to local business

## African American Community Meeting

### Meeting held on 8/28/2014

This Focus Group was the first gathering for getting input on issues that may be affecting historically underrepresented groups. This group was for African Americans.

These are their response to the questions. This discussion was held on August 28, 2014, at the Rainier Valley Community Center (4600 Ave S Seattle, WA) from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

These questions were specifically for the African American community:

### Responses to Question 1: How can we minimize displacement of residents and small business?

**De Charlene Williams:** Complacency lack of support of each other, need to get together and work together, everyone can't be a chef, need a business plan, work your plan, plan your work, educate people so they know what's going on and be honest

**Larry Wilmore:** Jobs community awareness, hold politicians accountable, learn the game, unified front and education and take care of each other, gave the lesser than help.

**Emma Freeman:** Come together as a whole, we can't be divided, SHA doesn't want to deal with low income, and put a cap on the rent.

**Shelia Edwards:** Education and College really on young people, economic education to overcome displacement and need more than one of these sessions.

**Lottie Jackson:** Education, communication and trust, keep what we have.

**Donald Humphrey:** Education, unity, we need action and services for what people truly need

## Responses to second question: How do policies for single-family zones affect equity and affordability?

**Debra Enterman:** To build wealth, how do we find out about policies, if we knew we could impact it, like red lining, we need to find out about the policies

**Guy Anthony Parramore:** Create list serve to get information to us ahead of time, share with our families. Be in there head first, not just heart first, diminish the belief we cannot come together, look at what other places are doing, Philly to our cap on taxes for people in certain category on the ask about what policy Seattle has.

**Crystal M. Chatman:** Espoused WA State virtues, SPD got the impact those that have been displaced, find out how each of us can work together in our respective situations, get clarity around my choices so I can go make better decisions

**Mo!:** Chi struck people in Apts who, we need single family zoning... city is taking to make it the issue its price it adds to equity..

**Jerrell Davis:** Need more people ages 15-30, teach a class, help define education, how to buy a house at start at Rainier Beach High School Cleveland High School, ways to teach each other

## Responses to Question 3: Should a clear definition and stronger emphasis for living wage jobs be included?

Everyone answered, “yes,” but asked them to elaborate.

**Mo!:** First with calls should include child care, local jobs, and tracking people into career jobs- need connections leadership. Get people into living wage green jobs

**David Harmon:** Be organized, we live in strange times, the hollowing out of the middle class, adapt to circumstances as they change, maximize use of homes, need zoning to use homes for businesses, jobs, we find development.

**Debra Enterman:** Be intentional about living wage job definition and go beyond the \$15 dollars an hour, we need to learn how to create our own jobs.

**Emma Freeman:** Yes and know what’s included in a living wage job

**DeCharlene Williams:** Yes put a job description to it

**Shelia Edwards:** Yes transportation, child care, other bills, define what wages mean

**GuyAnthony Parramore:** Yes identify what you need to do to get a living wage, use inside organizers, have city promote cross-fertilization among communities before final documents get to the city, have meetings at a time people can get to them, new poor and old poor.

## Vietnamese Community Meeting

### Meeting held on 8/30/2014

Meeting started with around-the-table introduction of 16 attendees. A 15 minute presentation on overview of Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The next 90 minutes was focused on group discussion and questions for City staff.

Sixteen participants (9 females, 7 males) were at least 35 - 75 years old. One community member was a volunteer coordinator at the Vietnamese Senior Association (VSA). A few attendees in the group participate in VSA’s weekly social activities. Discussion topics included: (1) housing, (2) transportation, (3) economic development, (4) health care, and (5) safety.

### Question: How can we provide diverse, affordable housing options for everyone?

#### Housing - Individual comments:

- Cleaner streets in Rainier Beach neighborhood (specifically on MLK Jr Way S & Director St)
- More apartment-like housing units (instead of single-family homes if more people live here)
- Quicker application processing for Section 8 housing. I applied for the Section 8 housing in 2011. It has been 2 years and I’m still waiting for a place although they said my family would get a place this year.

#### Housing - Group comments:

- We need a senior community center with social/exercise activities in our neighborhood.
- More recreational/community/social activities closer to homes (e.g. senior association, swimming pool, etc.)

### Question: What types of uses, amenities and services should the City encourage near station areas? How can we reach our goals for reducing the percentage of trips by people who drive alone?

#### Transportation – Individual comments:

- Metro bus system is good in Seattle but better if less time waiting
- Light Rail is good but it would be better if there are more frequent stops
- Would be convenient to have a single pass that has access to all transportation services
- More public parking space (such as Park & Ride)

### **Transportation - Group comments:**

- We would drive less and walk/take public transportation more often if there are healthcare/social services, shopping centers, diverse grocery stores, multicultural community centers, and work closer to transit.

### **Question: Should more effort be made to concentrate employment near transit within urban villages?**

#### **Economic Development – Individual comments:**

- We need to have job opportunities first before people come here (to Seattle).
- It's difficult to find jobs these days and it's getting even more competitive later, especially when we (with limited English speaking ability) already have challenges with finding a good job now.

#### **Economic Development – Group comments:**

- We would drive less and walk/take public transportation more often if our work is near transit in Seattle.

#### **Additional comments/concerns:**

#### **Safety - Individual comments:**

- We need to work closely with Seattle police department to keep our neighborhoods safer.
- We want to know who is the main person at the Seattle police department that is responsible to work with and keep our neighborhood safer.
- Each police car should have two police officers when they are driving around our neighborhoods. One person is the driver and the other person observes/assesses the situation/neighborhood.
- There needs to be undercover police officers in our neighborhoods in Rainier Valley and Rainier Beach (to identify offenders and illegal activities).
- I see graffiti everywhere along MLK Jr Way S & Graham St. area. I think gang groups use graffiti to communicate with each other.
- I'm very concerned about safety in Rainier Beach because I know people, including my friends and myself, who face very threatening/frightening incidents. One time a few Black teenagers screamed in my ears. They won't stop yelling even when I said, "Stop!" I feel very unsafe here.
- My father was beaten and threatened by two teenagers in his neighborhood along Rainier Ave. S. His wallet was stolen. Two teens were carrying guns. He wasn't sure whether the guns were real. Now he's extremely terrified to even step outside his apartment unit. He's afraid to

walk in his neighborhood now.

#### **Safety – Group comments:**

- More interaction between Seattle police department and our community. We are the eyes/nose of police officers in our neighborhood so we need to cooperate and help each other.

#### **Healthcare – group comments:**

- We need more hospitals in South Seattle. Currently, there are only community health clinics. We don't want to travel too far when there's an emergency.

### **Somali Community Meeting**

**Meeting held on 8/28/2014** Date: 08/28/2013

#### **Reading of Agenda**

1. Community concerns
2. Current existing housing issues
3. Seattle 2035 plan

#### **Summary of the meeting,**

Residents of lake Washington apartments and large members of the East African attended the meeting to raise their voice about the Seattle 2035 plan.

#### **Challenges and Housing issues and concerns for the communities**

- Housing is a resettlement need that has enormous and immediate impact on the day-to-day quality of life for refugees and their families.
- Language and literacy barriers and it problematic to complete housing application paperwork, understand rental regulations and resolve rental concerns,
- The obtainable housing units cannot accommodate the huge size of many families, thus many families must be split up, which also fragments the internal family support structure.
- The communities find it hard to access wide-ranging housing and discrimination information when they need it.
- Many families lack long-term rental histories required by many landlords
- Many families are single-parents households with high child-care costs that make it difficult for them to accumulate saving for required damage deposits and first last month rent requirements.
- Many families in our community were forced to move elsewhere in Seattle.

- The current redevelopment project in Lake Washington apartments raised many problems to our income families.
- Many of the families in these apartments are under state program and have limited income and rental price was raised twice in recently.
- Many families in our communities moved elsewhere for in search of opportunities, including housing and employment.
- Most of the families in this,
- Major concerns of the community are an accessible transportation system that fits their plan.
- Many member of our community were relocated into Tacoma and elsewhere in Washington and found problematic to access and transportation to reach families in Seattle.
- The current apartment that we live in do not have appropriate air conditioners and good heaters, both during the winter and summer.
- The apartments do not have enough space to accommodate big families.
- The housing maintenance do not come on time to fix manner issues like the restroom or broken doors.
- Seattle housing Authority have numerous issues that make life difficult for many immigrant who moved Seattle recent. For example, their housing waiting list is very bad.

Kristain Kafoed, a representative from City of Seattle was present during the course of the meeting.

Everybody who attended the meeting obtained of a copy of Seattle 2035 plan translated in to Somali/English.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm