

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

September 18, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson, Robinson, and Simas

ABSENT: Councilmember Wallace

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding. There was no Executive Session.

2. Study Session

- (a) Continued consideration of the Downtown Livability Initiative Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA), Land Use Code Part 20.25A

City Manager Brad Miyake said this is the fifth discussion regarding the Downtown Livability Initiative Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA). The Planning Commission presented its recommendations to the Council during the June 26 Extended Study Session, and subsequent discussions were held on July 10, July 17, and September 5.

Mac Cummins, Director of Planning and Community Development (PCD), recalled that the eight remaining issues related to the Downtown Livability LUCA were brought to the Council on September 5. Tonight's agenda item continues that discussion. Mr. Cummins said staff anticipates Council action on the code amendments on October 2.

Mr. Cummins recalled that the previous Council discussion on floor plate reduction for nonresidential development centered around the Downtown Mixed Use (DT-MU) district. The Planning Commission recommended a 10-percent floor plate reduction for nonresidential development in the DT-MU, DT-MU Civic Center, DT-OLB (Office Limited Business) Central, and DT-OLB South districts.

Based on the Council's past discussion, Mr. Cummins said an alternative for consideration is whether floor plates should contain a minimum of 20,000 square feet for office development. He said economic development staff studied both local and national examples to address this issue. Mr. Cummins said trigger heights are typically set at the existing building height maximums within the Downtown. Above that point, buildings must narrow somewhat to create architectural interest and variation. The maximum floor plate size in the DT-MU district is currently 20,000 square feet.

Mr. Cummins said that, in all four examples reviewed by staff, 20,000-square-foot floor plates were economically competitive, and all of the buildings were pre-leased or leased upon the completion of construction. He described two buildings in Seattle and two buildings in Austin, Texas, and noted that some of the floors are as small as 17,700 square feet.

Mr. Cummins said the policy question for the Council is whether there should be some type of requirement for urban form above the trigger height in the DT-MU district. The proposed 10-percent reduction in floor plate size above the trigger height sets the maximum floor plate size at 18,000 square feet.

Councilmember Robertson questioned whether there is the ability to address urban form through design review without reducing floor plates below 20,000 square feet. Mr. Cummins said the zoning code sets the box within which a developer can build, and there are certain design guidelines and requirements for the building. However, the way to avoid cube-shaped buildings is to adopt metrics that prevent that design.

Ms. Robertson questioned whether there are ways to change urban form, other than narrowing buildings at the top. Mr. Cummins said that, from a design standpoint, there could be a cylindrical building, angled building, and other shapes.

Trish Byers, Code Development Manager, said the Planning Commission was interested in a taller, more slender building form in formulating its recommendations.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted the interest of many in avoiding boxy buildings. He said the setbacks in the Commission's recommendations are intended to provide a better urban form. He spoke in favor of the 10-percent floor plate reduction for nonresidential development, as recommended by the Commission. He said building floor plates are viable at 18,000 square feet, and there are ways to achieve different urban forms. He believes the code will result in more interesting architecture.

Councilmember Robinson questioned the impact of the setbacks and reduced floor plate sizes on the pedestrian environment. Mr. Cummins said they result in more light and exposure to the sky, which creates a different feel than a more massive building at a taller height.

Councilmember Lee said he does not want the code to be too prescriptive because developers need to be able to build projects that are economically feasible. He concurred with the interest in

avoiding box-like architecture. However, Mr. Lee said projects must be economically and aesthetically attractive.

Councilmember Simas questioned whether it would be possible to allow a higher trigger height, which would achieve varied building designs while allowing developers to meet their economic objectives.

Mr. Cummins said staff has not spoken with developers to discuss the outcome of an increase or decrease in the trigger height. He observed that the accepted premise is that there would be a tradeoff in exchange for extra building height, which was determined to be floor plate size.

Councilmember Robertson spoke about having a supportive environment for high-tech businesses in Bellevue and competing to be the location for Amazon's second headquarters. She expressed concern about ensuring that buildings meet market conditions while providing a desired urban form and a beautiful skyline. She said the market demands floor plates that are 24,000 square feet to 28,000 square feet. She observed that 20,000 square feet is the smallest workable floor plate.

Ms. Robertson expressed support for floor plate reductions to create a desired urban form. However, she is in favor of allowing a minimum floor plate size of 20,000 square feet for nonresidential buildings, if that is required to be economically viable.

Ms. Robertson opined that a trigger height of 115 feet is too low for the OLB district. She suggested a minimum height of 150 feet.

Mayor Stokes said Bellevue currently has some interesting buildings with good urban design, which were built under the existing code.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said Seattle and other cities are able to attract tenants to buildings with 18,000 square foot floor plates. He said he does not see why the City would allow taller buildings without a way to guarantee better urban form. He suggested following the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Councilmember Lee said he understands the dilemma of economic feasibility and the goal of an attractive Downtown. He suggested trusting the developers and working with them to encourage the desired results.

Councilmember Robinson said her understanding is that the purpose of the code amendment is to create good urban form and a pleasant pedestrian experience. She noted that developers are not in favor of design review boards. She would like the City to be able to provide flexibility while achieving the desired outcomes.

Mr. Cummins said that introducing arbitrary considerations for what is considered an attractive building results in unclear rules for developers. Zoning codes typically use metrics to clearly articulate development expectations. The alternative of a design review board involves a

consortium of architects who make decisions about what they consider to be good design, which is often met with resistance by the development community.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Cummins said the current proposal contemplates floor plate reductions above the trigger heights in each of the zoning districts. He said staff received Council direction that the proposed reductions are acceptable, except in the DT-MU district where a 10-percent reduction is recommended by the Planning Commission. Mr. Cummins questioned whether the Council concurs with that recommendation or whether the Council would prefer to have no reduction in floor plate size within the DT-MU district.

Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Ms. Byers said the Planning Commission suggested that the Council consider a floor plate reduction between 10 percent and 25 percent.

Mr. Chelminiak suggested that 10 percent should be identified as the minimum floor plate reduction. He spoke in favor of providing a safe harbor for a minimum floor plate size of 20,000 square feet above the trigger height, if the building has a distinct architectural form. He said perhaps that could involve a design review board.

Councilmember Robertson said she did not favor a design review board. She would like to see an alternative for Council consideration in which floor plates smaller than 20,000 square feet would not be required in the DT-MU district. She also would like an alternative for Council consideration that increases the trigger height in the OLB district from 115 feet to 150 feet.

Councilmember Robinson expressed an interest in understanding the impact of a design review process on architectural design. Mr. Cummins noted the issue of determining whether unique architectural features can be codified in a meaningful way in the zoning code, without involving a design review board. He said potential building forms include triangles and curvilinear buildings. He said staff could explore whether it is possible to codify the desired design. However, Mr. Cummins said it is important to provide clear guidelines for developers, who are not in favor of arbitrary discretion by other entities.

Mayor Stokes said there are buildings in Bellevue that would be relevant to this discussion. He would like to get a better idea of how a building could be developed that would fit within a specific footprint.

Following up on the Mayor's suggestion, Councilmember Robertson asked staff to provide examples of buildings with interesting urban designs and floor plates of 20,000 square feet.

Responding to the City Manager, Mr. Cummins said the Council's direction is clear from a research standpoint. However, he hears a request for more visual examples. Mr. Cummins noted the existing alternatives of the Planning Commission's recommendation (10 percent floor plate reduction) versus ensuring a minimum size of 20,000 square feet for nonresidential floor plates. He noted the Council's interest in considering an option that would allow floor plates of 20,000 square feet for the full building height, with some type of requirement and mechanism to achieve a desired architectural design.

Councilmember Robertson stated her understanding that buildings narrow at two trigger heights in the proposed code for the DT-MU district. She is interested in ensuring that the highest setback does not require floor plates smaller than 20,000 square feet.

Mr. Cummins questioned the Council's interest in some type of design/architectural review mechanism.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak summarized his understanding of the discussion. He noted that Councilmember Robertson is in favor of a minimum floor plate size of 20,000 square feet for nonresidential development. He has also heard interest in a safe harbor in which, if the entire building has some form of unique and excellent urban form, trigger heights are less important. Perhaps a desired design can be achieved below the trigger heights.

Mayor Stokes and Councilmember Robinson concurred with Mr. Chelminiak's summary.

Councilmember Robertson reiterated her interest in ensuring that floor plates above the highest trigger height are not restricted to a size smaller than 20,000 square feet.

Moving on, Mr. Cummins recalled the Council's interest in learning whether flexibility in development standards could provide incentives for affordable housing. Staff's recommendations for potential incentives related to a 1.0 affordable housing FAR (floor-area ratio) exemption are to: 1) reduce the minimum parking ratio of 0.5 stalls per unit for affordable studio and one-bedroom units, 2) increase maximum lot coverage by five percent in Perimeter Overlay Districts where it is currently 75 percent, and 3) decrease upper level setback requirements by a maximum of five feet.

Councilmember Robinson said that decreasing the parking ratio for affordable housing units makes sense to her in transit-oriented development (TOD) areas. However, she is unsure of the impact outside of TOD areas.

Mr. Cummins said there are many examples of developments with a mix of affordable and market units in which less parking is required. Reducing the parking requirement reduces building costs for the developer.

Ms. Robinson expressed concern regarding the impacts of reducing parking requirements in areas that do not have convenient transit access. Mr. Cummins said access to transit can be used to reduce parking requirements. He said the parking requirement reductions offered above should be effective for stand-alone projects, especially in the Downtown where there is transit service.

Councilmember Lee said he was not in favor of reducing parking requirements for affordable housing only. He does not want to differentiate the requirement between affordable and market housing development. He said affordable housing should not have less parking or other amenities. Mr. Lee said affordable housing will be more expensive in the Downtown. He wondered how much of the higher development costs can be offset by incentives.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said Downtown Bellevue will have expanded bus service, as well as light rail service, in the future. He stated his understanding that the reduced parking ratio will apply equally to affordable and market housing units within a development.

Mayor Stokes concurred that the proposed parking incentive makes sense in the Downtown due to available transit services.

Ms. Byers noted there is a reduced parking ratio requirement in the BelRed corridor.

Mr. Lee suggested considering parking requirements for all housing units.

Mayor Stokes noted a Council consensus in support of the affordable housing incentives proposed by staff.

Moving on, Ms. Byers said staff recommends that the Council approve the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding accessibility and the use of alleys. The recommended code requires wider sidewalks and that site servicing (e.g., garbage pickup) must be located away from sidewalks and through-block connections. Access to site servicing shall be provided underground or within the building, and away from the public realm. The City's Utilities Department will provide new solid waste rules in the future that will be incorporated by reference into the code.

Councilmember Robinson expressed an interest in code requirements for marked crosswalks on private roads and alleys. Ms. Byers said she believed the topic is covered by the Transportation Code. She will look into the issue and follow up with the Council.

Ms. Byers moved to describe the Downtown boundary linear buffer, which started as a 20-foot, landscaped linear buffer to create a transition to adjacent neighborhoods. The proposed code eliminates the linear buffer for the Perimeter Overlay A-3 due to the future light rail tunnel portal park. In addition, the proposed code measures the Perimeter Overlay A-2 buffer from the back of the curb. A 12-foot sidewalk requires an eight-foot buffer, and a 16-foot sidewalk requires a four-foot buffer. Ms. Byers noted that McCormick Park creates a buffer along the north edge of the Downtown boundary.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said there are two properties along 100th Avenue, south of NE 8th Street, that are zoned Multifamily-Medium. The zoning changes to Multifamily-Low at Goddard Park. He expressed an interest in whether it would make sense to continue the buffer to Goddard Park. He wondered why those two parcels are zoned Multifamily-Medium.

Councilmember Robinson said she would be interested in hearing from residents regarding the buffer on the northern border.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for staff's recommendations. Mayor Stokes asked staff to include those in the ordinance to be presented for Council action.

Moving on, Mr. Cummins said staff recommends Council approval of the Planning Commission's recommendation regarding the use of in-lieu fees for parks. The Commission's code language provides flexibility for fees to be used within the Downtown for park facilities, as well as for other publicly accessible open spaces at the City's discretion.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said he would like language referring to parks and open space "adjacent to" and "directly connected to" the Downtown. He said that allows for several projects including Meydenbauer Bay beach and park, the Grand Connection, and other sites. Councilmember Robertson concurred.

Mayor Stokes noted Council support of staff's recommendations regarding the use of in-lieu fees for parks and open space.

Moving on, Ms. Byers said a small site is 40,000 square feet or less, as defined at the beginning of the Downtown code. The Planning Commission recommended limiting in-lieu fees to 50 percent of a project's required amenity points, including small sites. Ms. Byers recalled a suggestion to consider a 75-percent limit for small sites. She said the Commission and the Downtown Livability Initiative Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) were both in favor of providing amenities on every site, including small sites. Staff's analysis resulted in a recommendation to reduce the minimum size of an outdoor plaza amenity from 3,000 square feet to 1,500 square feet for small sites, instead of considering the 75-percent limit.

Councilmember Robertson said she asked staff to explore this issue. She thanked staff for their work and expressed support for the opportunity to reduce the size of an outdoor plaza. She questioned whether staff conducted an analysis to determine whether it is possible for a small site to use its maximum FAR (floor-area ratio) under the proposed code provisions. Ms. Byers said she would look into that issue. Ms. Robertson said she wants it to be economically feasible to develop small lots.

Ms. Byers presented staff's recommendations regarding vesting under the Land Use Code. Completed applications will continue to be reviewed under the prior code. The vested status of a land use application under the prior code expires on July 1, 2019, unless a complete Building Permit application is filed before the end of the two-year term. The vested status of a land use permit or approval issued prior to the adoption of this Downtown code update shall be governed pursuant to the terms of LUC 20.40.500.B. Ms. Byers said this is consistent with vesting practices for other codes.

Mayor Stokes noted Council support for the recommendations.

Moving on to sustainability certification, Ms. Byers said staff's recommendation for Council consideration retains the Built Green-5 Star certification in Tier 1, and the Built Green-4 Star certification in Tier 2, for the Sustainability Certifications in the Amenity Incentive System. She said the Master Builders Association wrote a letter asking that certification be considered as either an open space amenity or a flexible amenity, given the risk and costs of green building.

Ms. Byers said the open space category does not fit, and the flexible amenity is always available. She said staff did not want to make it more difficult for builders, and a flexible amenity requires a development agreement. She said developers may apply for a flexible amenity in extraordinary situations, such as the Bullitt Center in Seattle.

Mayor Stokes noted Council support of staff's recommendations on sustainability certification.

Mr. Cummins noted Councilmember Robertson's interest in revisiting the Council's direction on September 5 regarding trigger heights in the OLB district and tower spacing.

Councilmember Robertson recalled that two or three Councilmembers were comfortable with the Planning Commission's recommendation of 20-foot tower setbacks from the internal property line, above 80 feet for buildings taller than 100 feet. She said two Councilmembers felt strongly that there should be a 30-foot setback from the internal property line for residential development. She said she knew the City would hear from the public because this is a major departure.

Ms. Robertson said the City has been working on the Downtown Livability Initiative for four years. However, the issue of the tower setback from the internal property line was not addressed until earlier this year. Ms. Robertson said the Planning Commission recommended the 20-foot setback for internal property lines. She said the City does not currently have requirements for tower setbacks in the code adopted in 1981. Ms. Robertson said very few towers are closer than 40 feet to 60 feet. She expressed concern that the issue was raised relatively late in the overall Downtown Livability Initiative process.

Ms. Robertson said the examples presented by developers of actual projects in process indicate that the proposed 30-foot setback will reduce the quality and financial feasibility of their projects. She said the rationale given for adopting the 30-foot residential tower setback was to address privacy. She opined that there is little difference, in terms of visual access, between 20 feet and 30 feet. Ms. Robertson said she does not support the proposed change, and the need for additional spacing has not been demonstrated. However, developers have indicated that the tower setback will be detrimental to the feasibility and quality of development.

Councilmember Robertson spoke in favor of the Planning Commission recommendation for a 20-foot setback from the internal property line for both nonresidential and residential towers. She noted input from developers that adjacent sites might not develop for decades.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted that the total distance between two towers bordering an internal property line, using the 20-foot setback, is 40 feet versus 60 feet, which is a significant difference and privacy issue. He said he has reviewed input from the development community and he is not convinced that they are correct. However, with three Councilmembers supporting the 20-foot setback for both residential and nonresidential buildings, Mr. Chelminiak said he is comfortable supporting it as well.

Councilmember Simas said he spoke with a number of residents, architects, and developers. He learned that the difference of 10 feet can have a detrimental impact on how a building is

designed, and on how people live and work in buildings. Mr. Simas suggested there are ways to accommodate the 20-foot setback (40-foot tower separation). He favors granting more freedom to architects and developers to develop something that works even better than the 30-foot setback. He concurred with Mr. Chelminiak that this is not an issue that should divide the Council.

Councilmember Lee concurred with Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Simas.

Councilmember Robinson said there is a delicate balance between Downtown livability and buildability. She questioned whether it would be possible to adopt the 30-foot setback while providing the flexibility for a 20-foot setback in certain situations. She asked staff to bring that concept back as an option for Council consideration.

Mr. Cummins noted the issue of whether the Council is concerned about the closest point between two buildings or about the overall impact of the buildings. For the internal separation between towers, the code allows for averaging. He explained how the distance and the closest point between two buildings can vary with the building design.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said that, when he brought this up earlier in the summer, he met with staff to explore possible options. He said he did not come up with a way to codify the type of flexibility suggested by Councilmember Robinson. Mr. Chelminiak said staff showed him a picture of a commercial building and a residential building that are fairly close together. He said individuals should not have to live in their homes, whether single-family or high rises, with the drapes closed to maintain privacy. However, he observed that developers will try to use designs that minimize privacy issues.

Mr. Chelminiak said the City can encourage buildings with different shapes and/or orientations. However, he said that he and staff could not come up with anything prescriptive to ensure those outcomes. He said he would rather have more prescriptive regulations than go on pure trust, but he did not see a viable option.

Mayor Stokes concurred that this is an important topic, and he notices that current development seems to be cognizant of that. He said many buildings are not built as square shapes of the maximum size. He said there are some very innovative buildings. He said it is not necessarily a matter of putting blind trust in developers, but trusting that the market will respond to people wanting appealing buildings to buy or rent. Mr. Stokes said it is hard to be prescriptive in regulations. With regard to the total difference of 20 feet in tower separation, between the 20-foot or 30-foot setback options, he said he is less concerned about privacy. Many people live in houses these days that are relatively close together. He said privacy is not the only factor, but that light, air, and good design are important.

Mr. Stokes said the Council should keep in mind that the Commission and the CAC do not make the final decision. If the Council changes its mind in one day and makes a decision, that is the system. He said it is not necessary to follow all of the Planning Commission's recommendations.

Mayor Stokes opined that the 20-foot setback for both residential and nonresidential is workable.

Councilmember Robinson said she would like staff to bring back something the Council could review in terms of a provision for 30-foot setbacks for residential development, if that is feasible for the site. If that is not possible, she suggested some flexibility for a different configuration on the site. She would like to see an option for consideration.

Councilmember Robertson questioned whether that means that staff will come back with the 20-foot setback requirement, with optional language consistent with Ms. Robinson's suggestion for Council consideration.

Mr. Cummins said he heard Council interest in another discussion at a future meeting.

Councilmember Robertson requested that staff bring back a discussion of the impact of increasing the trigger height from 115 feet to 150 feet for nonresidential development in the OLB district.

Mr. Chelminiak said he would like to see the visual difference between the two building heights in the OLB and what the taller buildings might block.

Ms. Robertson said parking in the OLB district will be above ground due to the water table. She questioned how many floors there would be above the parking levels before the building is required to narrow at the trigger height. She expressed concern regarding the number of larger floor plates that will be available before the floor plates become smaller above the trigger height.

Following up, Mr. Chelminiak said it would be helpful to understand the relationship to FAR, because parking does not count against FAR limits.

Councilmember Lee noted that a developer wrote regarding the Pedestrian Corridor participation of properties on the east side of 112th Avenue. He said the developer requested a minor amendment to the code allowing the OLB-Central district's participation in requiring the same development rights available to the other property owners in the city, specifically pertaining to the Pedestrian Corridor.

Mr. Cummins said that, when the issue was raised in the past, there was a determination to postpone that discussion until the Grand Connection project discussion next year.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak asked staff to address the timing for looking at that issue in the future.

(b) Briefing on the King County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Task Force Recommendations

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, introduced staff's briefing on the King County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Task Force recommendations.

Alison Bennett, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations, presented a graph depicting the significant increase in national opioid fatalities since 2002. She said drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. Of 52,000 drug overdose deaths in 2015, 33,000 of the deaths were related to opioids and heroin.

Ms. Bennett said that, of 332 drug-caused deaths in 2016 in King County, 219 were due to heroin and opioids. The number of people entering addiction treatment programs nearly doubled from 2010 to 2014. She noted that ages 14 and 15 represent the peak age for the initiation of opioid abuse. She said the number of people seeking treatment for opioid addiction has outpaced the number of people seeking treatment for alcohol addiction.

Ms. Bennett said the King County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Task Force included approximately 50 individuals from a number of King County organizations including hospitals, police and fire agencies, human services agencies, and other health care providers.

Andy Adolfson, Deputy Fire Chief, said the first recommendation of the task force was to raise awareness and knowledge regarding the danger of opioids by informing pharmacists, citizens, and physicians about the hazards of opioid addiction. He said discussions on the topic have been held by the Eastside Human Services Forum, Bellevue Human Services Commission, and the King County Library System.

Mr. Adolfson said the second task force recommendation was to promote the safe storage and disposal of medications. King County has 100 drop box locations with envelopes for mailing the drugs to the county. There is a drop box in Bellevue City Hall near the entrance to the Police Department lobby, and seven pharmacies on the Eastside have drop boxes.

Alex O'Reilly, Associate Planner, said the third recommendation addresses prevention and early identification of drug abuse and addiction. King County has a Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral Treatment (SBIRT) program, which is used with both adults and children. The screening has been shown to provide an early warning of substance abuse and/or mental illness. She said the Best Starts for Kids levy has provided SBIRT funding in middle schools.

Ms. O'Reilly said the Bellevue School District is developing a SBIRT plan for middle schools, and the Best Starts for Kids levy is funding a health clinic at Highland Middle School.

Deputy Chief Adolfson said the fourth recommendation is to create access to buprenorphine (Suboxone), which helps individuals who are going through withdrawal from opioid use. King County has eight methadone clinics and individuals must go to a clinic daily to obtain the medication. However, individuals are allowed to fill prescriptions for buprenorphine to take on their own. In King County, 100 public and private health care providers have received training and can prescribe buprenorphine. Funding from the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) program in the amount of \$500,000 will be used to expand access to this treatment. In Bellevue and the Eastside, 16 public and private health care providers can prescribe buprenorphine.

The fifth task force recommendation is to develop treatment on demand for all types of services. Ms. O'Reilly said Bellevue's Human Services Fund invests in substance abuse treatment through Youth Eastside Services (YES), Therapeutic Health Services, Sound Mental Health, Friends of Youth, and HealthPoint. Deputy Chief Adolfson noted that having a number of programs provides different modalities that work with different individuals.

Ms. O'Reilly said the sixth task force recommendation is to alleviate the barriers placed on opioid treatment programs. King County's International Community Health Services (ICHS) provides affordable health care services for underserved populations and has a site in Bellevue on 140th Avenue NE. In Bellevue, HealthPoint provides health care services for low-income populations and Therapeutic Health Services provides outpatient drug and alcohol treatment, including medication-assisted treatment.

Deputy Chief Adolfson said the seventh task force recommendation is to expand the distribution of naloxone (Narcan) in King County. A few years ago, the state legislature authorized pharmacies to supply the nasal form of Narcan without a prescription. It has been carried by Bellevue medic units for many years and is now carried by all Fire Department response units. Mr. Adolfson noted that MIDD funding is being used to expand the distribution of Narcan. He said the Bellevue Police Department's narcotics officers are trained and carry Narcan nasal spray.

Ms. Nichols said the eighth recommendation is to establish pilot programs for two safe injection sites in King County, one in Seattle and one elsewhere. She said this recommendation has received the most public attention and scrutiny. Several cities, including Auburn and Federal Way, have banned the sites. Ms. Nichols noted that the Bellevue City Council will hold a public hearing on the Interim Official Control ordinance for safe injection sites on September 25. She said tonight's briefing is provided for information only and is not intended as a recommendation regarding the ordinance.

Ms. Nichols said staff will return in January to present the 2017-2018 Human Services Needs Update. She encouraged Councilmembers to advocate for King County elected officials to evaluate existing the programs and services funded by levies and tax revenues. She noted the interest in avoiding the duplication of efforts and reducing administrative overhead costs.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak recalled that he requested the update on the task force's recommendations. He said this is a serious public health, public safety, and community issue. He said King County's decision to establish two safe injection sites, and the political fallout, masks the importance of this issue. He said staff anticipates Council action regarding permanent regulations for safe injection sites on October 16.

Councilmember Robinson thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for the County's efforts. However, she encouraged enhanced education with physicians regarding how they can direct their patients about the disposal of medications. She encouraged increased

outreach to parents to help them identify the signs and symptoms of substance use and abuse and to communicate the importance of the safe storage and disposal of medication.

At 8:03 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared recess to the Regular Session.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

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