



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Planning and Community Development Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Eric Shields, Planning Director

Date: August 19, 2008

Subject: City Council Briefings on the Touchstone (Parkplace), Orni and Altom Private Amendment Requests (PARs)

Staff gave a status report on the Touchstone (Parkplace), Orni and Altom Private Amendment Requests (PARs) to the City Council at their August 8 meeting. At that meeting the Mayor asked staff to plan a briefing on the DEIS for the Council. Staff would like to suggest the following approach:

1. EIS Briefing: Schedule a Council study session for late September or early October for a briefing on the Environmental Impact Statement. A Draft EIS was published in April. A final EIS is expected to be published in early October. At this meeting, staff and consultants will make presentations on the key issues addressed in the EIS (traffic, parking, shade and shadow analysis and public services and facilities) and provide an opportunity for the Council to ask questions about potential impacts. To provide sufficient time for the information to be presented, it is suggested that this meeting be scheduled for approximately 2 hours.

It is important to note that this briefing would be for information purposes only. The Council would not be giving feedback on the substance of proposed plan and code amendments at this time because the Planning Commission would still be in the process of developing its recommendation.

2. Briefing on PC Recommendations: After the Planning Commission holds its final hearings at the end of October and makes a recommendation to the City Council, another Council study session would be held for the Council to receive and discuss recommended plan and code amendments. We have already scheduled a study session on this topic for the November 18 regular Council meeting, but again, the time available may be insufficient for the Council to fully discuss this important issue. Scheduling a longer meeting on another date, therefore, is recommended.

Please note that we are trying hard to have a final decision on these proposals by the end of the year so that it may be included in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan amendments. The review process has already taken much longer than originally expected and the Park Place applicant has indicated that further extension of the process will create difficulties in moving the project forward