



December 7, 2020

Dear Bellevue Planning Commissioners,

Downtown Action to Save Housing is a Washington Non-Profit Corporation established in 1991 by the Bellevue Downtown Association to help preserve and create affordable housing. Today, DASH owns and maintains 13 properties in East King County, including four here in Bellevue which provide housing for Bellevue's working families and seniors. Affordable Housing is our mission. We'd like to do more.

In 2018 we submitted a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for our Glendale Apartments property to increase density and allow for the development of more affordable housing. That CPA passed threshold review and was expanded by the Commission to include our adjacent property at Evergreen Court.

Later, upon further staff analysis, it was determined that DASH could receive more favorable zoning than NMU, allowing for more housing, if the properties were included in the Wilburton neighborhood upzone which was being developed at the time. After meeting with the Wilburton CAC and City Council, DASH agreed to allow our CPA to be diverted into that workplan. We understood there would be a risk of delay when we agreed to abandon the CPA process in 2018. We thought at the time that the delay would add one year to the process. Unfortunately, the Wilburton workplan has not advanced and there is currently no timeline for its implementation. With that path closed, we are re-starting the process with our Comprehensive Plan Amendment before you once again.

DASH has been working in partnership with Planning Staff, Commission and Council since 2016 when the Technical Advisory Group created the recommendations that formed the basis of the Affordable Housing Strategy adopted in 2017. Since that time Bellevue has done outstanding economic development work to attract more jobs to the city. Those new workers need places to live. We appreciate the steps that staff, the Commission, and Council are taking to provide avenues for the creation of more affordable housing. This is important work!

DASH's mission is to provide affordable housing for those folks whose needs just aren't being met by new market rate development. With increased density, our existing Evergreen Court and Glendale properties can support more affordable housing for Bellevue Residents. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you to provide more housing in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Buchanan

Director of Real Estate Development, Downtown Action to Save Housing