

20 March 2012

Metropolitan King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Preservation Development
Authority Council

Mary McCumber
Chair

Karen Breckenridge
Sharon Coleman
Fauna Doyle
James Fearn

Michael Herschensohn
Kate Krafft
Pete Mills
Rico Quirindongo
Rick Sever
Marcia Wagoner

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Kathleen Brooker
Executive Director
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Foundation
Board of Directors

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Michael Herschensohn
President
James Fearn
Gary Gaffner
Mary McCumber

Re: Renovation and Adaptive Reuse of Harborview Hall

Dear King County Council Members:

Historic Seattle strongly supports the renovation and adaptive reuse of Harborview Hall. We have been following King County's Request for Qualifications/Concepts and Request for Proposals process soliciting proposals for the adaptive reuse of the building. We understand four proposals were submitted to preserve Harborview Hall and provide a new use for the historic building. We believe this response demonstrates that the renovation of Harborview Hall is economically viable, will create new jobs, and provide medical office space that is in demand. We ask that Harborview Medical Center show its leadership and capacity for innovation by pursuing this opportunity.

Founded in 1974, Historic Seattle is the only nonprofit membership organization dedicated to preserving Seattle's and King County's architectural legacy. Our mission is to educate, advocate and preserve. As a stakeholder and property owner of the Seattle landmark Dearborn House on First Hill, Historic Seattle cares deeply about what happens in our own neighborhood. We see the preservation of Harborview Hall as an opportunity for King County to bring a historic building back to viable use and set a good example for preservation, an inherently "Green" approach to construction. The proposal to demolish the building and replace it with open space is an unsustainable approach to our built environment. The building is in overall good condition and is an ideal candidate for renovation. Any substantial rehabilitation project would include seismic retrofitting which has been successfully performed on preservation projects throughout Seattle. As an organization that has acquired and successfully rehabilitated historic buildings since 1974, we speak from experience.

We understand that the Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP) adopted for Harborview Medical Center in 2000 includes the demolition of Harborview Hall and replacement with open space. Master plans, of course, are guiding documents and planning tools meant to be updated and amended. Over a decade has passed since the MIMP was adopted. We believe it's time to rethink the value of Harborview Hall; improve it for the future; and set an example for

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sustainable design. Harborview Hall is a fine example of the Art Deco style and is significant for its association with medical education, serving as the base for the University of Washington's School of Nursing from 1931 to 1961. The property was recently deemed eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

More than 80 years ago, King County and Harborview Hospital officials were proud of Harborview Hall and its value to the community. We urge King County Council to support the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of Harborview Hall so that it may once again have great value in Seattle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Brooker".

Kathleen Brooker, Executive Director

CC: Jennifer Uy, Liaison, Harborview Board of Trustees
Steve Sheppard, City Liaison to Harborview Medical Center Citizens
Advisory Committee