



CITY OF STEVENSON

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371, Stevenson, WA 98648

3/4/2019

To the Stevenson City Council,

In 2013 the City adopted a Comprehensive Plan which lists “consider allowing new single-family development in the downtown area as conditional uses”.

At the end of 2012, several of Stevenson’s downtown shareholders gathered together to view a webinar series entitled “20 Ingredients of an Outstanding Downtown” provided by Destination Development International and its enthusiastic CEO Roger Brooks (Attachment 1).

I was a part of that group and I have made improving the economic position and vitality of downtown Stevenson a key goal of mine in the years since then. I am proud to see how far we have progressed in this time. We have:

- Formed the Stevenson Downtown Association, a Main Street Organization capable of diverting ~\$100,000 per year from state funds for our own use locally.
- Invested more than \$1mil in streetscape improvements to Cascade Avenue and the Quiet Zone silencing more than 40 train horns at Russell Street.
- Designed and are preparing to construct streetscape improvements to middle and lower Russell Street.
- Designed and installed wayfinding signage.
- Designed and are preparing to construct pedestrian improvements and water access to the riverfront between Russell and Leavens streets.
- Designed and are searching for funding for the Courthouse Plaza project for a public gathering place and public restroom which will be the envy of communities across the region.

The 7th ingredient from Roger Brooks’ webinar series involves pioneering investors with patient money. Through the City’s investment—and the patience to see those investments pay off—we are modeling the behavior we want to see from others. In doing so, we have prepared fertile soil for the growth of economic activity downtown. We are beginning a planning process to better identify what we need to nourish the growth we seek. Unfortunately, some of the plants taking root will detract from the goals we hold for downtown. Through the moratorium the Council adopted as Ordinance 2018-1130, you all saw the opportunity and need to address those conflicting uses before they take hold. I commend you for the action. In Ordinance 2019-1135, though, you fundamentally undermine the original moratorium’s purpose which will forever limit what our downtown can become. I am not willing to see that happen. I am willing to remain patient in the face of this political pressure.

It is for these reasons I have vetoed the City Council’s 3 ayes to 2 nays vote to adopt Ordinance 2019-1135.

With optimism for our future,

Scott Anderson
Mayor, City of Stevenson