

## QUEEN ANNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1818 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue W

Seattle, WA 98119

March 21, 2016

Seattle City Council  
PO Box 34025  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear President Harrell and City Council Members:

The Queen Anne Community Council requests that you table action on the Occidental Avenue street vacation pending further study of the Key Arena options, their impacts on city neighborhoods and on freight movement concerns. A rush to judgment on this matter may be politically expedient, but it has serious implications for the future of Seattle Center and Queen Anne's Uptown Urban Center, as well as for efficient movement of cargo to nearby port facilities.

The City Council's 2015 AECOM study of arena options provides the starting point for a fresh look. That study found that constructing a new stadium south of downtown could relegate Key Arena to second-class status, reducing the number of events held there from about 100/yr to 50/yr or fewer and might even cause the arena to operate at a financial loss. Conversely, renovating Key Arena to host additional professional sports teams could increase the annual number of events to perhaps 150/yr and the arena would operate profitably. The findings made clear that Seattle has alternatives for hosting additional professional sports teams. The alternatives have different impacts in different neighborhoods. The right decision about new sports facilities should lift all boats in our city, not sink some (boats and neighborhoods). The best overall decision will not harm one neighborhood or economic sector in favor of another.

Queen Anne's Uptown Urban Center is likely in the future to be served directly by light rail, which can deliver crowds to large events efficiently without adding materially to street congestion. We don't believe that modernization of Key Arena would require expansion of car parking, for example.

Although the Occidental Avenue street vacation lies beyond our neighborhood, your decision in this matter will directly affect Queen Anne's Uptown Urban Center as well as the port facilities, which are important to us all.

Thank you for taking our news into account in your deliberations.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Monrad,  
Chair, QACC

Cc:

John Creighton, Port of Seattle  
Katie Idziorek, Uptown Alliance  
Robert Nellams, Seattle Center