



## **COUNCILMEMBER GOBENA: TONIGHT'S VOTE GIVES CORPORATE DEVELOPERS A GOOD DEAL - AND SEATAC CITIZENS ARE PAYING THE PRICE**

**For advisory:** May 12, 2020

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**SEATAC:** SeaTac City Council is voting Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6pm on an amended purchase agreement between SeaTac and the development of the SeaTac Center property. The original price of \$15.5 million has been amended, with the developer asking to develop approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the property for just \$6,930,000. Under the amended agreement,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the property lies dormant under lease to purchase by the developer.

We have an opportunity to expand affordable housing to support our immigrant-owned small businesses right now, with the new amended proposal for development of SeaTac Center. Our small businesses are shuttered and those immigrant-owned businesses in SeaTac Center were evicted August 31, 2019 with two days notice. The SeaTac Center has stood empty for over 8 months now, when these businesses could have been generating revenue for their families and for the City. More ironically, the property is now being split into pieces, losing its original value and failing to meet the city's strategic goals as stated in the [purchase and redevelopment proposal](#).

I am speaking, as a member of this community and a Councilmember, in support of proposals that support our working families here in SeaTac. The majority of SeaTac City Council members have repeatedly failed to listen to the impacted community including immigrant owned businesses, and driven them out of SeaTac Center without a clear timeline of construction. ***The current majority Council agenda amounts to nothing more than a repetition of the Council's efforts to drive out community-based businesses and exclude necessary stakeholders to equitable economic development in our City. Instead, they are allowing corporate developers a good deal at the cost of SeaTac citizens.***

The Council must end giving corporations good deals and gentrifying communities of color businesses and working families. I am calling for the Council to immediately take the following steps:

- 1) Establish a public market on the City property that will not be developed as part of Polaris;

- 2) Require more affordable housing units within the Polaris development;;
- 3) Require multi-family tax exemptions to be for 8 years instead of the current 12 years, commencing from the date the property was sold, and including a sunset clause. That revenue should be used to fund equitable economic development in SeaTac;
- 4) Require the developer pay a lease for the duration of development delay at a market rate, and those fees should be used as grants to support the impacted small immigrant-owned businesses;
- 5) Develop an equitable economic development plan with stakeholders including immigrant-owned businesses.

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