



# City of Olympia

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

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Thursday, December 4, 2014

4:30 PM

Council Chambers

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### Potential Meeting - CRA Open House

#### 1. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 4 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones,  
Councilmember Julie Hankins and Councilmember Steve Langer

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Community Planning and Development Director Keith Stahley  
Downtown Liaison Brian Wilson  
Associate Planner Amy Buckler  
ECONorthwest Managing Director Lorelei Juntunen  
Project Manager Erik Rundell  
Pacifica Law Group Partner Jay Reich

#### 2. BUSINESS ITEM

##### 2.A [14-1150](#) Community Renewal Area (CRA) Open House Events December 3, 2014 and December 4, 2014

The open house began with approximately 15 citizens discussing Community Renewal (CRA) with City staff at breakout tables from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Buxbaum introduced the meeting at 5:30 p.m to about 25 citizens. He gave an overview of the meeting and asked for public input for quality development of Downtown. He turned the time to Mr. Reich who gave a background on the Community Renewal Act.

Mr. Reich explained that government does not provide funding for development. However, private investment will increase development. He explained that investors will only come to Olympia when confident on the ROI. Currently, Downtown contains a significant amount of blight that detracts investors including a large homeless population, high crime rate, and drug use. The goal is to build partnerships with private investors to improve Downtown.

Mr. Stahley outlined Washington communities that have successfully implemented CRA including Bremerton, Vancouver, Tukwila, and Shoreline. The City of Tukwila has used CRA to eradicate blight including prostitution, high crime rates, and drug use.

Ms. Buckler explained the relationship between CRA and the Comprehensive Plan. CRA is project oriented and will include public and private partnerships for funding. The Comprehensive Plan is a five year plan with high level policies.

Ms. Juntunen discussed the next steps following this open house including Council action, the RFP process, and ongoing public outreach, education, and involvement.

**The information was provided.**

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Buxbaum closed the meeting at 6:05 p.m. thanking the citizens for their participation. He encouraged them to circulate around the room to discuss their concerns with City staff.