



July 26, 2021

Paula Smith, Associate Planner
City of Olympia
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507-1967
psmith@ci.olympia.wa.us

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Harrison Avenue Mixed Use- Binding Site Plan 16-9112.

The Thurston County Chamber strongly supports the site plan to subdivide 6.2 acres of land commercially zoned into 5 lots for mixed use development, the inclusion of parking modification to reduce vehicle parking requirements by 20 percent and connecting streets and stormwater facilities. The Thurston Chamber recommends that the Olympia City Hearings Examiner approve the staff recommendation as presented.

The binding site plan will subdivide the subject parcels into five lots for a mixed-use development with associated parking, utilities, street connections and improvements in a three-phase development plan. We believe that the site plan is consistent with the current High-Density Corridor 4 (HDC) zoning for that area of the city. The Thurston Chamber is very concerned with the community's lack of housing inventory and the accompanying housing affordability crisis. We see the inclusion of residential multifamily in the site plan as an important and necessary step to help meet the City's long-term housing needs.

The Thurston Chamber also appreciate how the applicant, surrounding neighborhood(s), and other interests have actively worked with the City to highlight and resolve issues of concern since 2016. We agree with City staff that the binding site plan conforms with all state laws, and city ordinances, codes, standards, and policies including those found in the zoning ordinance. We also agree that appropriate provisions are made for streets and utilities and that the public use and interest will be served by the plan. We encourage the Hearings Examiner to approve the staff recommendation as presented.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Harrison Avenue Mixed Use- Binding Site Plan 16-9112. Please feel free to contact us by calling (360) 357-3362 or emailing DSchaffert@thurstonchamber.com if you have questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

Doug Mah, Director, Public Policy Division

Cc: David Schaffert, CEO and President, Thurston Chamber

THURSTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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