Waldref, Meredith (ECY)

From:	Njuguna Gishuru <nj.gishuru@gmail.com>
Sent:	Thursday, August 4, 2022 9:48 AM
To:	Waldref, Meredith (ECY)
Subject:	Concerns Regarding Boathouse Inc. Renton Skyway Cleanup Site Public Meeting

Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
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Hello Ms. Waldref,

My name is Njuguna Gishuru. I am a Skyway community member who was on the **Boathouse Inc. Renton Skyway Cleanup Site Public Meeting** zoom call yesterday. I am reaching out to you to express my dissatisfaction and dismay with the conduct and approach of developer Jaebadiah Gardner on that call and of Department Ecology staff in failing to check his behavior.

During the call when community elder and long time public servant Dinah Wilson asked what type of experience Gardner Global has had with the type of hazardous materials clean up required for this project Mr. Garder replied "more than you" in a snide and insulting manner and refused to answer her question. This was very disrespectful and dismissive and the Department of Ecology staff members simply sat idly by and said nothing when this overt statement of hostility was made towards a woman of honor in our community. By providing Mr. Gardner with a platform to dismiss and demean our community members and not supporting Ms. Wilson or reprimanding him you condoned his behavior and gave it the appearance of Department sanction. This was a microaggression in the broad light of day that women should not be subject to in 2022. Mr Gardner also made a statement to the community that he "wants all the smoke" a slang term meaning that one welcomes conflict and even violence. Many of us took this as a threat. It is alarming to our community that the posture of the developer and department seems hostile to an actively engaged community, the same one that funds the clean up of a for profit project and delegates power to the department through our elected representatives. It seems the department and developer feel you are doing us a favor. However, ecological and economic justice are our rights and we will proudly assert them especially after decades of neglect. That history of systemic neglect does not give any developer or department license to disregard our agency or dignity.

We need the Department to formally and publicly reprimand Mr. Gardner for his conduct on the call and to reach out and apologize to elder Dinah Wilson as soon as possible. We also need you to formally evaluate and address our serious concerns about affordability and using public funds to support a project that can be called affordable housing while it is not affordable for Skyway-West Hill's housing insecure residents. If housing is developed that is affordable for residents outside of our community but not those combating housing insecurity in our community it will be accelerating displacement and gentrification. Public funds will be supporting a large development that will draw in wealthier and whiter residents who are being priced out of higher cost areas. The department will be cultivating the illusion of equity and affordable housing for this community while you support the development of an engine that drives our housing insecure primarily BIPOC residents out. **It's imperative that this development make at least 50% of its units**

affordable based on Skyway-West Hill's AMI and that priority be given to historic residents of the community. This was done in projects Gardner Global worked on and supported for AfricaTown Community Land Trust in the Central District of Seattle so we are confident it can be done in Skyway.

I would appreciate a prompt and considered response as soon as possible. I have already registered comments with both your department and Gardner Global and will be remaining engaged on this issue. I appreciate your important contribution to our state's ecological wellbeing and our community hopes to work with you in solidarity going forward, thank you.

Njuguna Gishuru