

Adam Zack

From: joe symons <joesymons@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:05 AM
To: Comp Plan Update; DL - Council
Cc: Natalie Menacho; Lisa Byers; Mallory Hagel; fred klein; Stephanie Buffum; Margie Doyle; Sandy Bishop
Subject: Housing Issues in Seattle

Here is an excerpt from today's Seattle times about wealthy Chinese choosing Seattle as their #2 preference for cities in America in which to relocate, and the impact of speculation on affordable housing. San Juan County is clearly a "high quality of life" area. The huge Seattle growth ripple effect, already being felt here, will increase.

But Moon counters that it's widely accepted by economists that housing is now being used as a commodity around the world in all high quality-of-life cities, and there's no reason to think Seattle is an exception. She adds that even a small amount of speculation — less than 10 percent, Moon estimates — can have a big ripple effect.

from:
<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/chinese-millionaires-pick-seattle-as-no-2-place-in-the-world-to-live-survey-shows/>

My ask is that the county council re-examine and re-boot the comp plan update process to far more comprehensively examine the current and future implications of unprecedented and significant unconsidered impacts on the county from our market (and not plan) driven growth. It is imperative that we recognize that our current comprehensive plan has virtually no agency to manage, much less thoughtfully, our market-driven twin engine (tourism and 2nd home) economy. The consequence of this CP impotence is to continue the acceleration of the "Nantucket" syndrome, in which we craft a 21st Century equivalent of feudal Europe, with lords and ladies at the top and peasants supporting them, living in unacceptable conditions, as serfs, at the bottom.

Leadership is called for to move toward a wise and proactive response to this historical and accelerating trend. Time is of the essence. I urge the County Council to move from observation to action, to reassess the comp plan update process, to work with DCD and citizen groups to create a process to immediately illuminate and wrestle with the already projected (<http://www.doebay.net/appeal/socioeconomicgrowth.pdf>) challenges.

Joe Symons
Olga

carpe diem