



Press Release

CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

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**Mountlake Terrace Planning Commission
Recommends Plan to Revitalize Town Center**

A Town Center Plan that encourages retail and coffee shops on the ground floor of future 4- to 10- story mixed-use buildings in the “central anchor” area of the Mountlake Terrace downtown was the city Planning Commission’s recommendation at a November 27 public hearing.

The central anchor area is considered to be between 56th and 58th Avenues West and 232nd and 234th Streets SW. The area currently is made up of a several parking lots and one-story buildings from the 1960s and ‘70s.

“For years, I’ve seen a lot of ideas for the Town Center but none have taken off,” said Alice Kier, Commission chair. “This one is different. It offers a real vision that allows us to have an active downtown but still preserves the character of our residential neighborhoods.”

At the hearing, about two dozen people voiced their support or opposition to the plan. Completion of a Town Center Plan by the end of the year was directed by the City Council.

“A majority of people want something to happen downtown,” said Planning Commissioner Vic Sood. “This plan does it.” He noted that the location of any 10-story building is limited to a one-block area and it would have to be set back away from the street.

“When I first moved to Mountlake Terrace 38 years ago,” Mr. Sood stated, “I wondered where the downtown was. With this plan, we will know. It will have more stores, restaurants, and other places where we can enjoy being.”

The plan allows other areas, mainly along 56th Ave W., which are already zoned for downtown business, to continue in their existing uses and buildings. If redeveloped, height limits would remain at 3 stories—the same as now—except for a few key sites, such as the intersection of 56th Ave W and 236th Street SW, where buildings of 5-6 stories could be allowed.

The Town Center Plan calls for widening sidewalks, planting street trees, and developing a community plaza with a water fountain and benches.

Next, the plan goes next to the City Council for consideration. A public hearing, which includes time for public comment, is scheduled for December 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mountlake Terrace Library, 23300 58th Ave W.

For a copy of the preliminary draft plan and detailed project information, check the City's Town Center webpage: www.cityofmlt.com/towncenter or call 425.744.6266. A hard copy to review is available at City Hall or the next-door library.

Comments may be sent via email to towncenterplan@ci.mlt.wa.us or mailed to Planning Commission Secretary, 58th Ave. W., Mountlake Terrace WA 98043.

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