

Noise Variance for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Demolition Resolution

WHEREAS the replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct is for the general good of the City of Seattle and has been approved by the City of Seattle and the State of Washington;

WHEREAS the demolition of the Alaskan Way Viaduct will unavoidably be a costly and noisy endeavor;

WHEREAS the residents and business along the Alaskan Way Viaduct have the right to enjoy their property, conduct their business and sleep at night without unnecessary noise associated with any construction project;

WHEREAS the City of Seattle has recognized the need to protect the public from the harmful effects of noise by implementing laws to manage Noise Control in Chapter 25.08 of the Municipal Code;

WHEREAS the Noise Control law limits the amount of noise caused by impact equipment (e.g., jack hammers, cement crushers, etc.) to daytime hours of 8am – 5pm on weekdays, 9am – 5pm on weekends and legal holidays;

WHEREAS the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program has requested and received a one-year noise variance for the demolition of the Alaskan Way Viaduct that allows them to operate impact equipment from 7am – 10pm weekdays, weekend and holidays and 24x7 for non-impact work;'

WHEREAS the application for the aforementioned noise variance indicates that the demolition will be done in 2 block segments with the estimated length of time per segment ranging from 3 weeks to 3 months of continuous work;

WHEREAS the state of Washington and the City of Seattle have known about the need to demolish the Alaskan Way Viaduct for over a decade;

WHEREAS the at the public meeting on the noise variance request, the representatives stated that no other plan for demolition that had a lesser impact on residents was considered other than 24x7 operation (e.g., doubling the number of workers during the day and doubling the length of the demolition, or extending the time for demolition without having night time activity);

WHEREAS the application for the variance did not set forth specific noise mitigation activities but only a “framework” for mitigating the noise;

WHEREAS demolition conducted in 2017 at the southern-most part of the Alaskan Way Viaduct resulted in many noise complaints by residents that were not addressed;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats request that the Mayor, the City Council and all the relevant city and state officials overturn the conditional grant of the noise variance by the SDCI and require other alternatives the 24x7 demolition be considered and that any future noise variance contains specific mitigation efforts that will be enforced and not a general framework. Furthermore, any variance should be accompanied by real-time public access to noise monitoring, and public oversight of all noise complaints, including but not limited to an independent board with representation of residents and businesses.

Resolution presented by Andrew Konstantaras, 36th member