From:	Austin Strassle
To:	Public Testimony
Subject:	Oppose 210966
Date:	Friday, December 10, 2021 2:37:49 PM

Good afternoon,

I am writing to share my opposition to Ordinance 210966. This ordinance falls short of its intended goals of increasing neighborhood inclusion. And recent comments by other council members suggesting this ordinance be expanded to the entire city are deeply concerning.

There is value in engaging neighborhoods. And we should begin to undue the decades of disinvestment that has created the conditions we see today in the urban core. But this ordinance does neither of those.

I am deeply troubled by the ordinance's mandate to remove all bike lane infrastructure in the 3rd district. As a former social service provider, working with unhoused individuals throughout the 3rd district, many of the clients I worked with utilized that infrastructure to move safely through the neighborhood. Removing that bike lane infrastructure puts them at risk and puts others who utilize it at risk as well.

Additionally, I am deeply troubled with the unilateral decision making power that neighborhood associations would gain under this ordinance. Neighborhoods associations do not represent everyone who lives within a neighborhood. I can say that at one point, a neighborhood president within the 3rd district once told me that they would never support supportive housing for low income individuals because "only prostitutes and drug dealers would live there." As if those individuals weren't deserving of housing or access to the supportive services. How can we guarantee that neighborhood leaders will consider the interests of everyone who lives in a neighborhood? We can't. And so to give this much unilateral authority to a neighborhood association is both troubling and inequitable.

I would encourage council members to oppose this ordinance. Instead, I would encourage them to update the Complete Streets policy and to adopt the long delayed Bike Master Plan. Neighborhood engagement is important. And the city should do a better job listening to the needs of a neighborhood. But punishing some residents, taking away what may be their only safe route through a neighborhood, because of the limited capacity of the city to fully educate and engage neighborhoods, is not the path forward.

I strongly urge a NO vote on this ordinance.

Thank you,

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