



September 4, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **City Residents Ask Mayor Nickels for Clemency for Waldo Woods**

On Wednesday, September 3, the Maple Leaf Community Council learned the Seattle Hearing Examiner ruled against our appeal of a DPD decision on the development proposed at the Waldo Woods site in north Seattle. Overnight, Mayor Nickels, Deputy Mayor Ceis, and Diane Sugimura, Dir. of DPD, received our formal request to withdraw the DPD's decision.

The Hearing Examiner's decision acknowledged the developer presented inaccurate figures to the city by claiming newly planted trees on the site would create a 300-foot canopy surplus, when instead it was really a 1,160-foot deficit at the time of the decision. The fact the developer misled the city apparently didn't matter.

City witnesses admitted under oath they did not accurately record the wishes of the Design Review Board on project conditions, in direct violation of city law. The Hearing Examiner agreed, but still did not rule for the Maple Leaf Community.

The Maple Leaf Community Council believes these two items alone, which the Hearing Examiner cited as proven facts in her decision, provide a sound rationale for the Mayor to intervene to protect the integrity of the land use process.

The grove of 100+ trees at Waldo Woods do not deserve their death sentence. The Mayor, who has spoken repeatedly about the need to increase tree canopy cover, can direct DPD to withdraw the decision to fix the errors identified in the community. This would, in effect, be granting clemency to the grove at Waldo Woods.

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Waldo Woods is located on the grounds of the former Waldo Hospital at 8511 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The Maple Leaf Community Council issued a press release commenting on the decision yesterday afternoon. A copy of that press release and supporting materials can be found on the community's web site at: [http://www.mapleleafcommunity.org/savewaldo\\_4.html](http://www.mapleleafcommunity.org/savewaldo_4.html)

The supporting material includes the decision itself and exhibits showing the misleading tree information supplied by the developer. Yesterday's press release has considerable background info.

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