



July 18, 2017

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Bruce Harrell, Seattle Council President
Seattle District 2 Representative

Re: Honoring Alan Sugiyama in Beacon Hill Neighborhood

Honorable Council President Harrell:

We strongly support the renaming of 13th, 14th, 15th Ave. South and the adjacent traffic island in honor of Alan Sugiyama for his life time community activism and significant workforce contributions in greater Seattle King County.


On July 11, Co-Chairs Mr. Larry Matsuda and Mr. Willen Lew of the Alan Sugiyama Memorial Committee made a presentation to our Beacon Hill Council (BHC) community meeting on Mr. Sugiyama's contributions to the greater Seattle King County, his long-time residency in Beacon Hill and why it would be appropriate to honor him in this manner. The request was met with strong support, hence this letter to you.

We appreciate that you are willing to introduce the legislation honoring AI as you are no stranger to his accomplishments. AI founded Center for Career Alternatives and served as executive director for 30 years providing culturally and language appropriate orientation, job training and job placement to over 30,000 youth and adults in the greater Seattle King County area, and he was the first Asian American to be elected to the Seattle Public Schools Board and served as its President. It is only fitting that this longtime resident of Beacon Hill be honored adjacent to his home for 20 years, in a place near a public school reflecting his dedication to serving our children and youth.

The community also supports the placement of a memorial plaque for AI with a caveat. This year at our February BHC community meeting, we hosted an SDOT presentation on the redesign of the usage of said intersection to obtain community input. That community engagement process is still in progress. We respectfully ask that the location of the memorial plaque either 1) be determined after the conclusion of the SDOT and community redesign process, or 2) be placed at a location that is not under consideration for the redesign.

We look forward to celebrating the renaming of the Beacon Hill streets to honor Alan Sugiyama. Thank you for our leadership and support on this important neighborhood matter.

Sincerely,


Maria Batayola, Chair

C: Mike O'Brien, Seattle Council Chair of Sustainability & Transportation Committee
Rob Johnson, Seattle Council Chair for Planning, Land Use & Zoning Committee
Erin Doherty, Landmarks Coordinator, Dept. of Neighborhoods
Larry Matsuda and Willen Lew, Co-Chairs, Alan Sugiyama Memorial Committee
Beacon Hill Council Board Members