



July 19, 2017

Edmund Seto, Associate Professor
Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences
School of Public Health, University of Washington
Box 357234
Seattle, WA 98195

Re: Support for Pacific Hospital Preservation & Development Authority Nimble Fund Grant

Dear Dr. Seto:

Thank you for the very informative presentation you made regarding your project to measure noise at our July 11, 2017 Beacon Hill Council community meeting. The attendees strongly support your efforts and we passed a Board motion to do so. Hence this letter of support.

We strongly support your grant proposal entitled "Community-engaged Assessment of Noise Exposure and Health for Beacon Hill" to establish preliminary noise measurements in Beacon Hill.

As you know, our Beacon Hill neighborhood is surrounded by constant noise generating major roadways (I-90, I-5, MLK Way and Rainier Avenue), with airplanes incessantly flying overhead from Sea-Tac, King County Int'l Airport and Boeing field, and is located near an industrial area.

Our numerous residents' complaints have been neglected. We are very concerned about the health impact of noise as it affects our sleep quality, our children's learning, and its relation to cardiovascular disease risk. A number of studies have documented a relationship between noise exposure and hypertension. According to the latest Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data compiled by the King County Department of Health, Beacon Hill has one of the highest rates of hypertension in the city (approximately 30% of residents have high blood pressure, compared to 24% for Seattle as whole). It is a serious major public health problem.

We like the strong community engagement portion of the proposed study which calls on partnering with our residents to collect noise measurements at as many as 100 sites in Beacon Hill. It is innovative and empowering to our residents. The bottom line is that we need the noise measurement and health data for the Beacon Hill Council to properly advocate for the resolution of the noise issues and to raise community awareness about health hazards associated with outdoor noise pollution. Working with University of Washington and, if appropriate, public health officials, the Beacon Hill Council would be willing to host community information sessions about ways residents can protect themselves against excessive outdoor noise pollution.

We want your proposed study funded and strongly urge Pacific Hospital PDA to do so and help start addressing this very important public health issue in its own backyard.

Sincerely,

Maria Batayola, Chair

C: Beacon Hill Council Board Members