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FEBRUARY 2021

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

mark your Zoom calendar

February 10, noon

Topic: Seattle Police Department budget

Speakers representing Seattle City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda are her chief of staff, Sejal Parikh and her legislative aide, Aretha Basu. We will also be discussing and voting on the motion to send the letter (see below) to the Seattle Public Schools board members.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87404611422?pwd=VExOUiRlZXZlWQ0VORERyNVlib2hHQT09>

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,87404611422#,,,,*925284# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,87404611422#,,,,*925284# US (Houston)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdler14DBq>

Meeting ID: 874 0461 1422

Passcode: 925284

February 17, noon

Topics: homelessness in Seattle, SPD budget and what qualities we should look for as we choose a mayoral candidate to support.

Our speaker is former mayor and Seattle City Councilmember Tim Burgess.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89940390373?pwd=L2F3QVBpSUhZVHAwTVZUURhenR6Zz09>

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcLFcQXa8L>

Meeting ID: 899 4039 0373

Passcode: 753953

February 24, noon

Speaker(s) and/or topic(s) for discussion to be announced.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84234496839?pwd=dmJnODQ4YmJZYnhuRDFMRVUycGQ1Zz09>

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd6SfoXn1v>

Meeting ID: 842 3449 6839

Passcode: 099813

Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

West Seattle high bridge to re-open in 2022

The goal of the West Seattle High-Rise Bridge Safety Project is to restore traffic in 2022," said Chris Gregorich, a Seattle Department of Transportation strategic advisor, who spoke to members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its January 13 Zoom meeting. He said Mayor Jenny Durkan announced last November that the West Seattle Bridge would be repaired, as it is the fastest way to restore mobility to West Seattle. Eventually, he added, the bridge will have to be replaced.

The high bridge was closed in March 2020 because cracks were widening at an alarming pace, requiring immediate removal of traffic. This was not a maintenance issue, Mr Gregorich said, but shutting down the bridge assured that repair was a viable option. The high bridge carries over 100,000 travelers each day and its unavailability leaves West Seattle residents and businesses few options for quick access to the rest of the city.

Phase I of the repair began with stabilization; construction will be underway during the third quarter of 2021. This involves more post-tensioning work on additional bridge spans, reviewing the seismic condition of Pier 18's foundation and completing a study that models the likelihood of other parts of the bridge needing future repairs before the bridge is replaced. The repair work is expected to be complete and the bridge open to traffic around the third quarter of 2022.

To prepare for the eventual replacement of the bridge the project will conduct a traffic and revenue study to develop a long-term funding strategy and determine the type, size and location of the replacement.

To deal with traffic issues until the repair is complete the project conducted surveys to gather information from West

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letters to the editor

Stop midnight raids on people's homes

We must not forget Breonna Taylor and the many other innocent men, women, and children who have lost their lives when police SWAT teams invaded their homes in the middle of the night. The best way to honor their memory is to outlaw and completely abolish such invasions.

It cannot be a surprise that a householder will shoot at intruders who have broken in during the night. And of course the police will shoot back. Who is to blame? The people who sent them! Or consider the following possibility. Despite experience and training any officer is going to be somewhat tense and on edge going into an unfamiliar house at night. When he sees somebody coming toward him through the semi-darkness, with a gun in his hand, he shoots in self-defense. Actually, he has shot a 64-year-old man who had fallen asleep in front of the television. The noise awakened him and he started to get up with the TV remote in his hand. Well, it looked like a gun in the dark. When he learns that this was the reality the police officer is devastated, and he considers quitting the police force. Outcomes like this have happened countless times.

It is hard to blame the police officers for the inevitable damage that ensues from these events. Blame the person who sent them, and those who allowed it - the judge, the mayor, the police chief, the city councilman, the state legislator. Because this is how it often happens. A tip comes in, anonymous or from a "reliable source." On that flimsy basis someone applies for a warrant to arrest a citizen who is now suspected of having or selling an illegal drug. Without oversight, surveillance, or other confirmation, a compliant judge signs a warrant allowing a night-time

raid on somebody's apartment or house. Hopefully the address is accurate.

Police officers risk their lives every day. Sending them at night into someone's house greatly increases their odds of being shot at or even killed. Just as important, these raids jeopardize the well-being and life of everyone inside. Almost always there are men, women, or children present. Many people have been killed in the process of arresting a person who has not yet even been convicted of any crime. The disproportionality is appalling. All too often the resulting "collateral damage" really constitutes a death sentence for one or more of the innocent bystanders. Yet the warrant itself was only about a minor crime, certainly not punishable by death. And the experience of having your door broken in, your house torn up, weapons displayed and pointed at your head, while being loudly cursed - all that is incredibly traumatic. The children will have nightmares about that invasion for the rest of their lives. So will most of the adults.

Some proposals have recommended ending "no knock" warrants. That would not help very much. If someone pounds on your door at one AM, yelling "open up," and claims to be the police, it is not much safer and no less traumatic than a no knock entry with a battering ram.

In 2014, *Rise of the Warrior Cop* was published. Written by Radley Balko, it sets forth decade by decade how ever since Reagan was president these raids have grown in number until they have become common. The notes at the back of the book provide ample source material.

SWAT teams may be needed for hostage situations, or to stop a threatened terror attack, but those situations are extremely rare. The vast majority of SWAT raids are to serve warrants, mostly for drug suspects.

Ending these raids will require one

notice of vote

MDC to vote on letter to SPS board

A motion to send the following letter, drafted by Drs Carol and Jim Simmons, to members of the Seattle Schools Board was made January 27 by Eleanor Munro and seconded by Allan Munro. A notice to this effect was sent out to members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle by email the same day. Members should be prepared to vote on this motion at the February 10 meeting of the MDC. They may also vote by emailing walkere1@msn.com no later than February 9.

Dear (Seattle Public Schools Board Member)

We would like to join the efforts of the Clear Sky Youth Leadership Council, an inspirational cadre of dedicated Indigenous youth leaders with the motto "Empowerment through Education, Culture, and Tradition," to support a youth-led effort to uphold Seattle Public Schools' commitment to equity and inclusion by formally adopting March 9 as Billy Frank Jr. Day.

The Billy Frank Jr. Day Resolution calls for designating March 9 as a day of remembrance, celebration, and recognition of the life, legacy, and achievements of Billy Frank Jr. (Nisqually Nation). Billy Frank Jr., 1931-2014, was a courageous advocate for tribal treaty rights in the Northwest. He is remembered for his leadership role in gaining fishing rights for Native people when treaties were being ignored by the U.S. government. First arrested as

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woman or man to lead the way. A mayor, a police chief, a legislator. Maybe a city attorney. Somebody to step up. And we should all support that effort.

- Pete Francis

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From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

Answers to Jack Whisner's Crossword Puzzle

1	P	2	E	3	L	L	I	4	C	5	C	I	6	O	7	T	8	T	9	I			
10	L	E	A					11	H	O			12	M	A	S	C						
	U							13	F	14	R	A	N	Z		15	X	A	E				
16	T	17	A	Y	L	O	R							18	B	I	R	D					
19	A	L						20	A	T	T	21	S		E								
	R							22	R		A			23	H	A	R	24	R	25	I	26	S
27	C	28	H	E	29	E	R	30	I	O				31	R	E	N	T					
32	H	A	P	P	Y	N	E						33	W	Y	E	A	R					
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41	H	E	42	C	43	K													45	A	L		
46	E	Y	M	A	47	N								48	D	R	49	A	M	A			
	A																						
								50	R	E	51	X											
54	T	A	L	L	E	Y																	
														55	S	A	N	D					

50. Actor Harrison
53. President-elect
54. See 38 down
55. Found in hourglass

Down

- Greek philosopher
- Some MIT grads
- NBA Clipper city
- Nautical map
- Pro opposite
- Mystical syllable
- Car for hire
- Russian ruler pre 1917
- Cold brew coffee, usually
- St. of Bush v. Gore
- Old phone or traffic circle
- Mariner grp.
- New Representative, 36th
- Mule, pump, sneaker...
- Theater on August Wilson Wy.
- Partner of rod
- End of two Southeast state names
- New member of Congress
- New Representative, 11th
- Domain name firm
- Not out
- Laundry step
- Gear firm on 1st Ave. S.
- Calendar pgs.
- With 54 across, 37th Representative
- Miami pro hoops team
- Bicycle size meas. unit
- Sonic's George
- Prayer ender
- Family tree word
- In football, CB, FS, or SS
- Fed. ramp law
- Male chromosomes

Across

- Treasurer-elect
- Meadow
- Santa syllable
- Traits from 51 down, in brief
- Epic Lands Commissioner
- An honor society
- New Representative, 30th
- Four-time pro hoops champ
- Gore of climate books
- Bar members with JDs
- Vice President-elect
- British greeting or cereal
- Lease payment
- My greeting to you
- NBA Laker city
- King County SR-2 town
- Workplace of 23, 53 across and 26 down
- Persian name
- TVW founder with new job
- Link govt.
- Capp in comics
- Chair thief and I-976 author
- Seen in theater

MDC meeting notes

January 13

Members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle offered ideas for future programs. One of these was education. It was suggested that we ask Eden Mack, who resigned from the school board recently, to speak. It was also suggested that we invite someone to speak about virtual teaching and that we consult Drs Jim and Carol Simmons

about other potential education topics and speakers.

The members expressed interest in learning more about the redistricting that is to take place this year.

Another topic of interest was how the democracy voucher program is working.

President Jack Whisner continues to work on arranging a speaker on the Seattle Police Department budget.



Have you paid your dues?

Most MDC members have paid their dues. To find out if you are up to date, see the date your dues are payable on the top line on your newsletter address label. Or email Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com.

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a teenager in 1945 for “illegally” fishing on the Nisqually River, Frank would go on to lead “fish-ins” and demonstrations, and would be arrested more than 50 times. His crucial work, his dedication, and his determination as a treaty advocate and environmental steward would lead to national and international recognition, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. An inspiration to so many around the world, Billy Frank Jr. is the definition of a role model, and now more than ever, it is important for more people to know about Billy Frank Jr. and his story.

We encourage SPS to recognize Billy Frank Jr. Day every March 9 for all SPS students and staff to learn, celebrate, and engage in civic service to commemorate the life, legacy and enduring spirit of our hero. Please adopt the Billy Frank Jr. Resolution proposed by Seattle Clear Sky Native Youth Council and Allies.

Sincerely,

Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle

(Please note: the above-mentioned resolution has been posted on the MDC website, www.metrodems.org)



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Seattle residents about how to achieve levels of travel similar to pre-closure. It also sent ballots to West Seattle neighborhoods to prioritize projects that can reduce impacts on detour routes. Mr Gregorich noted that there had been 190 traffic improvements and 22 neighborhood ballot projects built since the bridge closure. Thirty-three traffic mitigation projects are planned for 2021, he said.

The bridge closure necessitated a number of transit service changes, he told the group. SDOT is working with Metro on a variety of options including allowing vanpools to use the low bridge. Priority access is for emergency vehicles, heavy freight, transit (vanpools, shuttles and school buses. There is now in place an automated



Request for information

from Eleanor Munro

If you would like to add someone’s name to our MDC friends list, send their contact information to me. The people on this list receive email notices of our meetings and events.

I am beginning to gather information about candidates for office in 2021; if you hear that someone has declared their candidacy or that an elected officer plans to run again, please let me know and provide as much information as possible.

Send information to me walkere1@msn.com.

photo enforcement system; unauthorized users get a \$75 ticket.

In addition to the repair of the high bridge, work has begun on strengthening the low bridge, Mr Gregorich explained. A consultant is under contract to begin designing post-tensioning and carbon fiber wrap and to investigate a center-lock system and pier conditions. Construction is expected to begin mid-July and end May 2022.

The project expects to have a more refined cost estimate early this year. The capital cost of repair is currently estimated at \$47 million; other costs include \$50 million for traffic mitigation and \$10 million for repair of the low bridge.

Community engagement includes virtual community meetings, ongoing community briefings, work with South Park, Highland Park, and Georgetown to finalize Home Zone projects, outreach on proposed W Marginal Way SW improvements, and continued coordination with neighborhoods, maritime groups and a variety of agencies.

To stay up to date on progress of the repair and replacement of the high bridge sign up for weekly email or visit the What’s Happening Now section of the website <http://seattle.gov/westseattlebridge>.

Questions can be sent to westseattlebridge@seattle.gov or 206-400-7511



Membership renewal date appears on above label

February 2021

METROPOLITAN
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF SEATTLE

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