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MPA Program 2/1/07 Draft HSR

Human Subjects Review Application

1. The nature of this research project is to examine the future of housing in downtown Olympia, WA. The ultimate purpose of this research project is to help facilitate a citizen vision regarding housing in the downtown core of Olympia. The survey will be based on themes related to a citizen's vision regarding housing design, affordability, land use and incentives to live in downtown Olympia.
2. Research participants of this project will voluntarily submit to a web-based survey consisting of 10 questions related to generating a vision for housing. The survey will be sent to various local organizations vested in the housing process related downtown Olympia. Local organized interests will utilize a web-based survey of which a "snowball" sample technique encouraging additional citizens to participate will be utilized. Similarly, two focus groups consisting of 6-8 general citizens will be conducted in a downtown Olympia location that is convenient to all participants. Audio recording and note taking of the focus group sessions will be utilized to maximize the full capture of main themes and ideas relating to a housing vision.
3. Participants of the web-based survey will be recruited by their affiliation with a local organization vested in downtown housing for Olympia. Respondents of the survey will include citizens active in local organizations and additional citizens the local organizations can reach via e-mail. Participants of the focus group will be recruited through web-based and convenience solicitations. Citizens who are actively involved in city committees and local organizations will be screened out of one of the focus group samples, as their perspectives will have already been captured in the aforementioned web-based survey.
4. Risks to the research participants of both the web-based survey and focus groups are minimal. Respondents will be informed of risks and will have the choice to refuse participation in this research project. The participants' identities in the web-based survey and focus group will be confidential in both the research notes and the final analysis of this project. Web survey respondents' email addresses will be retained temporarily until the incentive gift certificate drawing is complete. After the drawing they will be deleted. Audio recordings of the focus group will be destroyed subsequent to the final analysis of this research project. Risks that may occur would be mild embarrassment from sharing opinions and ideas among participants within the focus group session. The solution to this risk is to not solicit any identifying information of the participants. Focus group participants will be asked to keep the identity of other participants confidential.
5. The anticipated benefits of this research project are to garner a citizens view of

the future of housing in downtown Olympia, WA; to add a citizen element to the existing deliberative planning process related to housing in downtown Olympia already underway by City officials and related stakeholders; and to increase the citizen's role in planning for housing in their community.

6. The information derived from this research project will help inform subsequent analysis to be possibly used by City of Olympia officials and related stakeholders involved in developing housing for downtown Olympia. Copies of the final analysis from the web-based survey and the focus group session will be made available to all those who participated in the project who are interested in our results. The final analysis of the research project will not reveal the identities of the respondents, as we will not document their personal information. All related notes to this research effort will be destroyed.