

Public Safety & Health Committee, Seattle City Council

Public Hearing, August 26, 1983

Event 9721 (00:13:59 – 00:15:43)

Speaker: Mike Carney

MIKE CARNEY: My name is Mike Carney. I live at 3212 21st South, on top of Beacon Hill. Umm, some of the...I have sponsored some of these refugees who are using these plots. There are three plots, uh, one of higher visibility where these people have just spoken about, and two other ones: uh, one on top of the hill and one down in, uhh, further south of Holly Park. And, umm, we've had some discussion and, uh, mostly my concern to come today is that they not be closed entirely if--if we're to accommodate these people and move that one. I'm happy to talk about that, but let's not close them all. So, I brought other people benefiting from the plots and I've asked other people to come, but many of them are also working. Umm, the reasons for it are--have been listed. They keep...they give these people an opportunity to feed themselves, which is better than going to a food bank, umm...and the land under--underneath the power lines certainly seems the appropriate place to do it because it's idle land. Um, the gardening advice that is offered, I--I listen to, but I--I've...my acquaintance with these people has indicated to me they've been subsistence gardeners all their life and if there is recommendations about the peculiarities of Seattle's climate, I think, uh, we should cooperate in that manner. And another reason they don't go every day is, uhh, some live some distance from these plots, not--not too far. Most of them are in, uh, Mount Baker or Holly Park....Yeah, mostly I hope they don't close 'em. I brought some ladies to say that they do appreciate the opportunity to garden. Thank you.