



UNDERDOG LAW REPORT to the Renton City Council *Mon, Feb 24, 2014*

"A free debate of ideas often results in the wisest gov't actions."

Last month I spoke about how the mayor's staff had gotten the Council to approve changes throughout the city's building code which incorporated the words, "**creative design alternatives**," which in effect leaves it 100% up to the mayor's people about who is going to get a building permit and who is not, since they, and not the law, define what is a creative design alternative. Hence, my comment that a court challenge might well find the city's code "void for vagueness."

This week the mayor's staff is chipping away again at city code no doubt to make it easier to focus on the neighborhood they could not take over with a Declaration of Blight during Koelker-Wheeler's watch and now seek to use liens to put pressure on the people to sell. A duplex owner in the Highlands cannot divide his lot; but a developer can buy a lot and carve it up into as many mini lots as possible and that's OK.

Well, how about applying the **new nuisance law** to this situation?

DeWitt is a developer familiar to Briere, probably to Don Persson, and most likely the mayor. Most certainly all the Planning & Development management and staff know him.

- How can DeWitt get away with digging a huge foundation right up to the 3' setback, piling the dirt around the edges so that it affects the health of the trees on adjoining lots? Isn't Renton a "tree city"?
- How can DeWitt put a cyclone fence around a public sidewalk, blocking it from public use?
- This is the sidewalk that the City forced the owner next door to pay for when he built his house.
- How can DeWitt put sani-kans on the public sidewalk? <http://underdoglaw.info/sanikan.html>
- How can DeWitt take it upon himself to block a public sidewalk and the City does nothing?

I expect the City will try to redraw the map to show that DeWitt owns the public sidewalk so he can get some more footage to accommodate the oversized house he wants to build.

But if so, I hope Renton refund the money to the taxpayers who originally paid to install that sidewalk.