

March 10, 2015

Mr. Matthew Austin 6901 S. Madison Street #C Tacoma, WA 98409

Ms. Johanna Herrera 6739 S. Madison Street Tacoma, WA 98409 Mr. Ralph Rodriguez, L.I.D. Administrator City of Tacoma, Dept. of Public Works 747 Market Street, Room 520 Tacoma WA 98402 (Inter-office Mail Delivery)

Re: File No. HEX2014-025 - Local Improvement District No. 8648 Assessment Roll

To the Parties,

Enclosed is a replacement of Page 15 to the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation to the Tacoma City Council. This replacement page provides the Hearing Examiner's signature entered on March 9, 2015. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Louisa Legg Legal Assistant

Enclosure (1)

cc: Tacoma City Clerk's Office

Liz Wheeler, Customer Svc. Rep. Tech, Tacoma City Treasurer's Office

Mr. Steven Harrison, 5905 114th Place SE, Bellevue WA 98006



1	by the L.I. D. and that the Final Assessment Roll, as revised, be approved for a term of 20
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3	DATED this 9 th day of March, 2015.
4	(2) 15m
5	PHYLLIS K. MACLEOD, Hearing Examine
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FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND **RECOMMENDATION -**L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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City of Tacoma Office of the Hearing Examiner Tacoma Municipal Building 747 Market Street, Room 720 Tacoma, WA 98402-3768

Examiner



March 10, 2015

TO ALL: See Transmittal List

Re: File No. HEX2014-025 - Local Improvement District No. 8648 Assessment Roll

As a courtesy, please find enclosed a copy of the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation to the Tacoma City Council entered on March 9, 2015.

Sincerely,

Louisa Legg

Legal Assistant

Enclosure (1)

Transmittal List:

Fred Walden, PO Box 44856, Tacoma, WA 98448-0856 Axcent (Accent) Servicing LLC, 7505 SE 28th St. Apt. 1, Mercer Island, WA 98040-2701 Evelyn J. Peterson TTEE, 4317 NE 66th Ave #19, Vancouver, WA 98661-3082 Estate of William G. Bradford c/o Betty J. Welling, Executrix, PO Box 64902, University Place, WA 98464-0902 Ekawat Sunti, 1425 Sanford Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526-4251

cc: Tacoma City Clerk's Office (cover letter only)

CERTIFICATION

On this day, I forwarded a true and accurate copy of the documents to which this certificate is affixed via United States Postal Service postage prepaid or via delivery through City of Tacoma Mail Services to the parties or attorneys of record herein. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED March, 10, 2015, at Tacoma, WA.





March 9, 2015

Mr. Matthew Austin 6901 S. Madison Street #C Tacoma, WA 98409

Ms. Johanna Herrera 6739 S. Madison Street Tacoma, WA 98409

Mr. Ralph Rodriguez, L.I.D. Administrator City of Tacoma, Dept. of Public Works 747 Market Street, Room 520 Tacoma WA 98402 (Inter-office Mail Delivery)

Re: File No. HEX2014-025 - Local Improvement District No. 8648 Assessment Roll

To the Parties.

In regard to the above referenced matter please find enclosed a copy of the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation to the Tacoma City Council entered on March 9, 2015.

Louisa Legg Legal Assistant

Enclosure (1)

Tacoma City Clerk's Office cc: Liz Wheeler, Customer Svc. Rep. Tech, Tacoma City Treasurer's Office Mr. Steven Harrison, 5905 114th Place SE, Bellevue WA 98006

CERTIFICATION

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the foregoing is true and correct

ORIGINAL

OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

CITY OF TACOMA

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In the Matter of:

NO. 8648

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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ND ORIGINAL

FILE NO.: HEX 2014-025

FINDINGS OF FACT CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

A PUBLIC HEARING in the above matter was held on July 31, 2014, before

PHYLLIS K. MACLEOD, the Hearing Examiner for the City of Tacoma. The City of Tacoma appeared through Ralph Rodriguez, Local Improvement District (L.I.D.) Administrator for the City's Department of Public Works. Property owners Matthew Austin and Johanna Herrera appeared and testified. Steven A. Harrison of Harrison Appraisal appeared and testified regarding the 2-4 Unit Residential Appraisal Reports he prepared. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Hearing Examiner held the record open to allow the City to supplement the record with a Special Benefit Study prepared by a licensed appraiser. The City obtained a Special Benefit Study from Valbridge Property Advisors/Allen Brackett Shedd (Valbridge) providing further information on the value of properties before and after the L.I.D. projects for street lighting (L.I.D. No. 6979) and paving (L.I.D. No. 8648). The Special Benefit Study (Study) was submitted on November 17, 2014. The property owners who participated in the assessment hearing were then given the opportunity to respond to the Study. A response was received from Mr. Austin on December 16, 2014. The Hearing Examiner asked the City to

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provide further material addressing the submittal from Mr. Austin. The City filed its response on January 27, 2015. Mr. Austin requested an opportunity to respond to the January 27, 2015, submittal, which was granted. His response was received February 10, 2015. One final clarification of the record was requested from the City by the Hearing Examiner on February 17, 2015. Upon receipt of the supplement on February 27, 2015, the evidentiary record was closed.

The Hearing Examiner, having considered the testimony and exhibits presented, having reviewed the files, and being otherwise fully advised, makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1. On November 13, 2007, the Tacoma City Council adopted Ordinance No. 27656, which provided for the formation of Local Improvement District (L.I.D.) No. 8648. Ordinance No. 27656 provided for the placement of permanent pavement with curbs and necessary storm drainage on S. 69th Street, from S. Durango Street to S. Madison Street, and on S. Proctor Street, from S. 69th Street north approximately 225 feet, together with all other work necessary to complete the project in accordance with maps, plans, and specifications prepared and on file in the Office of the Director of Public Works. Ordinance No. 27656 is incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth. *Ex. 4*.
- 2. The Assessment Roll for L.I.D. No. 8648 was filed in the Office of the City Clerk on December 4, 2013, and the same shows the amount assessed against each lot and parcel of land in payment of the cost and expense of the improvements previously referred to, and said roll has been opened for inspection by all parties interested therein. *Rodriguez Testimony*.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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- 3. The Notice of the Assessment Roll Hearing was published, as required by law, on July 10, 2014, and July 14, 2014, in the Tacoma Daily Index. An Affidavit of Publication has been filed with the City Clerk. *Ex. 2; Rodriguez Testimony*. All procedures as provided for by law with respect to adoption of the Assessment Roll have been taken, including, but not limited to, mailing notices regarding the Assessment Roll hearing to owners of record on July 15, 2014. *Ex. 3; Rodriguez Testimony*.
- 4. Pursuant to applicable laws and the direction of the Tacoma City Council, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on the Assessment Roll on July 31, 2014.
- 5. The work has been completed for L.I.D. No. 8648 in compliance with the plans and specifications for such construction. The final project cost is \$598,865.30, compared to the estimated project cost of \$420,000.05. The final rate per Assessable Unit of Frontage (AUF) is \$470.96, compared to the estimated rate of \$338.54 per AUF. Mr. Rodriguez testified that the increase between the estimated cost per AUF and the final cost per AUF was due to numerous factors including increased design costs, increased construction costs, and increased staff costs. The final total assessed to property owners is \$598,865.30. This is a 10-year Assessment Roll although the City is open to a 20-year Assessment Roll for the project. *Ex.1; Rodriguez Testimony*.
- 6. A zone and termini formula was used to determine the L.I.D. assessments, as provided at RCW 35.44.030 and RCW 35.44.040. Only abutting properties were included in the assessment district. *Rodriguez Testimony*.

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FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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7. Two owners of property within L.I.D. No. 8648 appeared at the hearing to contest
their assessments. Johanna Herrera indicated that she bought the property at the northeast
corner of S. Madison Street and S. 69 th Street in early 2014. She is a first time home buyer
and has limited funds. The pending L.I.D. assessment was not revealed on the title insurance
documents prepared in connection with her purchase of the property and she first learned of
the L.I.D. from the 14-day notice of the final assessment roll hearing. She does use S. 69 th
Street to access her home. Herrera Testimony. The prior owner of her property apparently
requested driveway access work on S. 69 th Street that added to the general L.I. D. assessment
against the site. Rodriguez Testimony. Mr. Rodriguez testified that Ms. Herrera had been
provided with paperwork that could be used to make a claim against the title insurance
company and that she may qualify for L.I.D. assistance, which would reduce her responsibility
to the amount of the requested improvements. Rodriguez Testimony.

- 8. Matthew Austin is the owner of a triplex at the southeast corner of S. Madison Street and S. 69th Street, which has the address 6901 S. Madison Street. The triplex has paved access from S. Madison Street to the carports for each unit. The triplex units front on S. 69th Street, but are typically accessed by tenants from the carport. Tenants and guests may use S. 69th Street for parking. Mr. Austin bought the property in August 2007 for \$327,000. *Ex.* 20. The existence of the L.I.D. was not revealed to him by the seller. He does not believe his property is benefitted by the street improvement L.I.D. *Austin Testimony; Ex.* 29; *Ex.* 31.
- 9. Mr. Austin presented the testimony of Steven A. Harrison, a licensed residential appraiser. Mr. Harrison was asked by Mr. Austin to perform an appraisal of the Austin

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

property showing values before, and after, the improvements were completed. He prepared a 2-4 Unit Residential Appraisal Report addressing the value of 6901 S. Madison Street on September 1, 2008. Mr. Harrison used three comparable properties to calculate value based on an income approach, a sales comparison approach, and a cost approach. He gave the most weight to the sales comparison approach and used the cost approach and income approach to support his 2008 valuation of \$306,000. *Ex. 20*.

10. The second 2-4 Unit Residential Appraisal Report used a similar approach with three different properties that sold during the fall of 2009. In this report, Mr. Harrison again gave the most weight to the sales comparison approach and looked to the cost approach and income approach to support his valuation, which was \$250,000. *Ex. 21*. Mr. Harrison testified that the lower value in 2009 was influenced by the general decline in property values that occurred during that time period. *Harrison Testimony*. Mr. Harrison testified that in his opinion the street improvements and street lighting installation did not have a benefit on the Austin property because the triplex was already served by S. Madison Street, which is a paved street that tenants use to access the units. He did not believe the L.I.D. improvements would increase the sales price of the triplex or allow the owner to obtain higher rents. *Id*.

11. The City supplemented the record after hearing by submitting a Special Benefit Study (Study) prepared by the appraisal firm Valbridge Property Advisors/Allen Brackett Shedd (Valbridge). *Ex.* 28. The purpose of the Study was to establish the special benefits accruing to the ownership of properties located within the L.I.D. boundary for the City's use in determining assessments of L.I.D. project costs. The Study looked separately at L.I.D.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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properties with newly developed access and properties with existing access. A number of the parcels within the project boundary had no developed street access prior to the project. The Study included an analysis of the value added to their property by the project improvements. *Id.* The owners of those properties did not appear at the hearing to oppose the Final Assessment Roll and did not file written testimony or protest. *Rodriguez Testimony*.

The owners who did appear at the hearing to protest their assessments were in the Study category denominated "Highest and Best Use Parcels with Existing Access." As to the Austin property, the Study utilized a Sales Comparison Approach and a supplementary paired sales analysis to determine what benefit, if any, the property at 6901 S. Madison Street gained from the L.I.D. improvements. The sales comparison analysis involved six 2009 sales of duplex or triplex property in the same general geographic area as the subject property. The Study and the January 2015 follow-up from Valbridge detail the properties selected for the sales comparison and the adjustments made to the properties based on conditions of sale, date of sale, site size, building size, number of units, age, and quality of frontage improvements. The first comparisons were made with existing street improvements to develop a "before" value. These figures were then adjusted to reflect value "after" construction of street improvements at the Austin property. Based upon this sales comparison, the Study identified a range of cost per square foot for the "after" value. Rather than simply using that figure, which would generate a value between \$267,600 and \$294,360, the Study refined the conclusion by applying the results of a paired sales analysis. The paired sale analysis was

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION –

L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

Tacoma Municipal Building 747 Market Street, Room 720 Tacoma, WA 98402-3768

City of Tacoma Office of the Hearing Examiner directed specifically to the issue of value added by the presence of road improvements. Ex. 30, p.6.

- 13. The paired sales study involved comparing sets of similar duplexes and triplexes located in the South Tacoma market that sold within a six month period to see if residential units with inferior right-of-way frontage/infrastructure sold at a discount when compared to similar units with superior right-of-way frontage. Based on the paired sales data, the Study concluded that a 20 percent improvement to market value was contributed by street frontage improvements. The Study found this result would support lowering the value identified by the sales comparison approach to a value no more than 20 percent higher than the Austin property's "before" condition value as a result of the L.I.D. improvements. *Ex.* 28, *p.7*; *Ex.* 30.
- 14. The analysis of the Herrera property was approached on a different basis. The Study found that the single-family home was in poor condition at the project completion date in 2009 and that it was of no contributory value. The Study concluded that in 2009 the highest and best use for the property was to demolish the home and develop a triplex or duplex on the site. Accordingly, the property was given a nominal "before" value of \$1,500 because the cost of necessary improvements exceeded the value of the property. The "after" value was placed at \$55,000 based on the worth of a development-ready vacant triplex lot. The difference constituted the special benefit of \$53,500. *Ex. 28, p. 8.* In actuality, the property developed differently. The home was purchased, renovated, and resold to Ms. Herrera for \$136,000. *Ex. 28, p.8.*

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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15. Mr. Austin responded to the Study submitted by the City in a thorough and precise manner. While he did not present further material from an expert appraiser, he indicates that he consulted other appraisers. Mr. Austin takes issue with a number of items in the Study. He makes several general denunciations of the work, stating it is biased, violates the standard of care for appraisal, and is not compliant with professional standards. He also raises a large number of specific criticisms of the data and the approach. Mr. Darin Shedd of Valbridge submitted additional information discussing Mr. Austin's comments in Exhibit 30 and Mr. Austin filed a final response marked Exhibit 31.

16. The discussion between Mr. Austin and Mr. Shedd focuses, in large part on the detailed features of the properties used in the sales comparison study and the paired sales study. Mr. Austin has exhaustively researched the Assessor's records and other sources to determine whether the properties included in the two approaches used by the Study have been accurately reflected in the Study. He has identified differences between the size of certain properties mentioned in the Study and the size contained in Assessor's records. He has further identified inconsistencies between the building size indicated in the Study and the building size contained in the Assessor's records. *Ex. 31.* Mr. Shedd contends that the comparison he performed looked at numerous characteristics that supported the validity of his conclusion regarding the value added by street improvements. *Ex. 30, p. 2.*

17. Mr. Austin provided information that indicated particular features of certain properties evaluated in the sale comparison analysis were incorrectly reflected on the comparison chart. In one instance, the number of square feet in the structure was overstated.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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In the sales adjustment chart several entries incorrectly reflected a minus adjustment rather
than a plus adjustment for building size. In two instances the land size entry of 0 should have
been a plus. However, the impact that these matters have on the ultimate valuation does not
appear to be significant. Ex. 30. While the lack of accuracy is notable, when using the charts
for comparison purposes, the same inaccuracies are reflected in both the before and after
valuation. Accordingly, the errors did not impact the before and after comparison which was
based on differences in the column reflecting frontage improvements. To the extent the square
footage amounts for certain sales should have been lower than reflected in the Study, the price
per square foot would be greater, which would support a higher before and after value than the
figures in the Study. As a result, the price per square foot inaccuracy does not support a lower
value for the Austin property

The ultimate issue is what value to attach to the addition of street frontage 18. improvements to a duplex/triplex site. Mr. Austin presented an opinion from Mr. Harrison that the improvements in this case added no value to the Austin property. This opinion was not based upon any data or a study comparing property values for parcels with and without such improvements. The only expert appraisal testimony based upon quantitative analysis lirectly addressing this issue is the paired sales study provided by Valbridge. Mr. Austin has criticized the paired sales study on several grounds. He points out that the square footage for two properties included in the "C" comparison group was incorrectly stated. Valbridge has provided a supplemental document corrected for the size discrepancy on Sales C2 and C3.

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FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND **RECOMMENDATION –** L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

Ex. 30, Attachment 7. Mr. Austin further contends that the properties in the paired sales study have not been adjusted to reflect detailed differences between the properties in the study and and his property. Ex. 29, pp. 10-25. Mr. Shedd insists that the consideration of age, land size, and building size contained in the study was appropriate for the type of inquiry he was pursuing. Ex. 30, p. 3. By contrast, Mr. Austin claims the level of detail is insufficient to isolate the impact of street improvements. Ex. 31. The data presented, as modified to reflect accurate square footage, does demonstrate a higher market value per square foot for properties with street improvements than for properties without such amenities. Ex. 30, Attachment 7. Mr. Shedd has evaluated the data and concluded that a figure less than the raw value is indicated. He places that figure at 20 percent of the "before" value. Ex. 28, p. 7.

19. The City's Assessment Roll gives special consideration to Mr. Austin's situation by reducing his base assessment by 30 percent, to reflect the fact that his property had prior improved access off of S. Madison Street and was not benefitted to the same extent as undeveloped parcels. *Ex. 33*. This 30 percent discount below the full AUF figure also allows for any minor errors arising from the Study calculations. The final assessment for the Austin property of \$36,780.50 is significantly below the \$42,153.17 base assessment identified in the Study. The \$36,780.50 figure is even further below the special benefit to the Austin property identified in the Study as \$44,000. The evidence demonstrates that the Austin property was

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

¹ Economic hardship is not one of the factors considered in evaluating special benefits or L.I.D. assessment rates. However, Mr. Austin has apparently qualified for L.I.D. assistance from the City that will reduce his obligations under the assessments. *Ex. 33*.

benefitted by the street improvement L.I.D. in an amount greater than the assessed amount of 1 2 \$36,780.50. 3 The evidence established that, the overall fair cash market value of the properties benefited by L.I.D. No. 8648 has been increased in an amount equal to 95.80 percent of the 4 project costs. As a result the final assessment roll figures have been adjusted in the Study to 5 6 be consistent with that finding. Ex. 28, p.8. A verbatim digital recording of the hearing is in the custody of the Examiner's 7 21. Office, and the file is in the custody of the City Clerk; and both are available for review by the 8 9 Council and any party in interest. 10 22. Any Conclusion of Law hereinafter stated which may be deemed to be properly 11 considered a Finding of Fact herein is hereby adopted as such. 12 From these Findings of Fact the Hearing Examiner makes the following: 13 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:** 14 1. The DPW has complied with all applicable laws with respect to approval and confirmation of the Assessment Roll for L.I.D. No. 8648. 15 16 2. An improvement constructed under an L.I.D. is presumed to benefit properties within the L.I.D. on an equitable basis, and the assessments are presumed to have been made 17 fairly and legally. See Abbenhaus v. Yakima, 89 Wn.2d 855, 860-61, 576 P.2d 888 (1978); see 18 19 also Bellevue Plaza v. City of Bellevue, 121 Wn.2d 397, 402-403, 851 P.2d 662 (1993); Hansen v. L.I.D., 54 Wn. App. 257-62, 773 P.2d 436 (1989). Consistent with the foregoing 20 21

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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case law applicable to appeals of City decisions, Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 1.23.070.B, sets forth the standard for reviewing assessments as follows:

"...In regard to Local Improvement District assessments, the assessment roll presented by the Department of Public Works or the Department of Public Utilities shall be presumed to be legally correct; and a party contesting a proposed Local Improvement District assessment shall have the burden of establishing, by a preponderance of expert appraisal evidence, that the method of assessment was founded on a 'fundamentally wrong basis' and does not properly reflect the special benefits resulting from the improvements constructed."

TMC 1.23.070.B.

- 3. At the same time, the law requires that assessments cannot exceed the benefit that is conferred by the improvement. *Bellevue Assocs.*, *v. City of Bellevue*, 108 Wn.2d 671, 678, 741 P.2d 993 (1987); *In re Schmitz*, 44 Wn.2d 429, 433, 268 P.2d 436 (1954). The evidence in this case demonstrates that the proposed Assessment Roll will conform to applicable legal requirements if it is modified to assess no more than the amount of special benefit that accrued to each property. The Special Benefit Study indicates that the benefit accruing from this project is equal to 95.80 percent of the project costs. Accordingly, no more than 95.80 percent of the costs can be properly assessed against the benefitted property. The overall Assessment Roll should be revised to reduce assessments consistent with this finding.
- 4. As to the Herrera property, there was a lack of evidence that the assessment was based on a fundamentally wrong basis. The Highest and Best Use analysis applied to her property is a recognized appraisal approach that focused on the value conferred on the property

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

rather than the improvements existing in 2009. As a result, no further adjustment is recommended for the Herrera property's assessment.

- 5. Regarding the Austin property, the weight of the evidence shows that some benefit is conferred on property that is served by improved streets over property that is not so served. The only expert testimony analyzing data that compared property with street improvements to property lacking such improvements was provided by the Valbridge Study. Mr. Austin's appraiser did not attempt to use sales data to compare the two types of property. His general opinion did not address the differences between property with and without street improvements.
- 6. The appraisal of property is a complex matter involving many variables and the use of recognized techniques. The Hearing Examiner is not an appraiser. The Hearing Examiner is charged with hearing all the evidence, weighing the factual evidence presented by lay witnesses and experts, and issuing a decision that complies with the governing law. While the Valbridge submittals suffered from certain imprecision, the analysis contained in the material was largely unaffected by the identified size and square footage errors. Ultimately, it comes down to whether Mr. Austin presented adequate evidence to demonstrate that "the method of assessment was founded on a 'fundamentally wrong basis' and does not properly reflect the special benefits resulting from the improvements constructed." *TMC 1.23.070.B.*²

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Hearing Examiner applies the City Code as written.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

Some recent case authority applies a different standard of review based on a board of equalization model in which the decision maker makes a de novo determination while presuming the assessments to be correct, constrained by the clear, cogent, and convincing standard. *Hasit, LLC v. City of Edgewood*, 179 Wn. App. 917, 949 320 P.3d 163 (2014). This authority may not be applicable to this case because the City of Tacoma has adopted a specific standard of review for L.I.D. assessment roll challenges in the City Code. In this decision, the

1	Despite the very thoughtful material and data provided by Mr. Austin, the Hearing Examiner
2	cannot conclude that this standard has been met in this case. The paired sales study provides a
3	recognized basis for attributing value to duplex/triplex properties based on the presence of
4	street improvements. Although it does not do so with extreme precision, the Study supports
5	the City's conclusion that Mr. Austin's property has benefitted from L.I.D. No. 8648 in an
6	amount equal to or greater than the amount of the assessment. The City's 30 percent reduction
7	of Mr. Austin's assessment to reflect the preexisting paved access to his property off S.
8	Madison Street further supports the amount of the assessment.
9	7. The City Council should adopt an ordinance assessing the property owners for
10	amounts that do not exceed the benefits conferred under L.I.D. No. 8648 previously created by
11	the City Council. The Assessment Roll should be revised to meet this standard and to extend
12	the term from ten (10) to twenty years (20). The Assessment Roll for L.I.D. No. 8648 should
13	then be approved and confirmed.
14	8. Any Finding of Fact hereinbefore stated which may be deemed to be a
15	Conclusion of Law herein is hereby adopted as such.
16	From these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law the Hearing Examiner enters this:
17	RECOMMENDATION:

revised consistent with the terms of this recommendation to reflect only the benefits conferred

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND **RECOMMENDATION -**L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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City of Tacoma Office of the Hearing Examiner Tacoma Municipal Building 747 Market Street, Room 720 Tacoma, WA 98402-3768

The Hearing Examiner recommends that the Assessment Roll for L.I.D. No. 8648 be

1	by the L.I. D. and that the Final Assessment Roll, as revised, be approved for a term of 20
2	years.
3	DATED this 9 th day of March, 2015.
4	Thuseis K. Macleo d
5	PHYLLIS K. MACLEOD, Hearing Examiner
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FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)

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NOTICE

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RECONSIDERATION/APPEAL OF EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION

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RECONSIDERATION:

Municipal Code 1.23.140)

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Any aggrieved person or entity having standing under the ordinance governing the matter, or as otherwise provided by law, may file a motion with the Office of the Hearing Examiner requesting reconsideration of a decision or recommendation entered by the Hearing Examiner. A motion for reconsideration must be in writing and must set forth the alleged errors of procedure, fact, or law and must be filed in the Office of the Hearing Examiner within 14 calendar days of the issuance of the Hearing Examiner's decision/recommendation, not counting the day of issuance of the decision/recommendation. If the last day for filing the motion for reconsideration falls on a weekend day or a holiday, the last day for filing shall be the next working day. The requirements set forth herein regarding the time limits for filing of motions for reconsideration and contents of such motions are jurisdictional. Accordingly, motions for reconsideration that are not timely filed with the Office of the Hearing Examiner or do not set forth the alleged errors shall be dismissed by the Hearing Examiner. It shall be within the sole discretion of the Examiner to determine whether an opportunity shall be given to other parties for response to a motion for reconsideration. The Hearing Examiner, after a review of the matter, shall take such further action as he/she deems appropriate, which may include the issuance of a revised decision/recommendation. (*Tacoma*

APPEALS TO CITY COUNCIL OF EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Within 14 days of the issuance of the Hearing Examiner's final recommendation, any aggrieved person or entity having standing under the ordinance governing such application and feeling that the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner is based on errors of procedure, fact or law shall have the right to appeal the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner by filing written notice of appeal and filing fee with the City Clerk, stating the reasons the Hearing Examiner's recommendation was in error.

APPEALS SHALL BE REVIEWED AND ACTED UPON BY THE CITY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH TMC 1.70.

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR APPEAL:

The Official Code of the City of Tacoma contains certain procedures for appeal, and while not listing all of these procedures here, you should be aware of the following items which are essential to your appeal. Any answers to questions on the proper procedure for appeal may be found in the City Code sections heretofore cited:

- l. The written request for review shall also state where the Examiner's findings or conclusions were in error.
- 2. Any person who desires a copy of the electronic recording must pay the cost of reproducing the verbatim recording. If a person desires a written transcript, he or she shall arrange for transcription and pay the cost thereof.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION – L.I.D. NO. 8648 (ASSESSMENT ROLL)