

PRESS ADVISORY

PUBLIC ADDRESS BY CITY OF CARNATION TO CITY OF SEATTLE AT SEATTLE'S COUNCIL MEETING.
PRESS CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW PUBLIC COMMENT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

WHAT: Upon declaring a state of emergency due to the Seattle's Dam latest false alarm on August 22, 2023, Carnation City Council will address the Seattle City Council on September 5, 2023. Carnation will invite Seattle's Council to attend a public forum and evacuation hike on September 30, 2023 in Carnation at 10:00 a.m.

Carnation will address the following points in its presentation during public comment: Inadequate and failing alarm systems at the Seattle's Tolt Dam; traumatization of Carnation community in the aftermath of multiple false alarms; need for greater accountability and empathy by the City of Seattle and potential demands including fines and mitigation fees.

The Seattle City Council could not provide a date and time that reflects the urgency of this situation. For this reason, the Carnation council will participate in public comment and will provide a press conference afterwards.

WHEN + WHEN: ***September 5, 2023- 2:00 p.m. Public Comment in Council Chamber***

September 5, 2023- Press Conference after public comment. Steps on 4th Avenue at Seattle City Hall (X James)

STATEMENTS:

1. Carnation was incorporated in 1912. Seattle built its dam in 1964. Seattle's Dam puts all our lives and property at risk. We get no benefit from it. We get no water from it. We get no revenue from it. Yet we have 100% of the RISK.
2. As required by regulation, Seattle's Dam has a Warning system to protect life and property in Carnation. Yet, that system has failed **6 times in the last 3 years**. With each failure, it becomes more and more apparent that Seattle hasn't addressed a number of foundational issues, and that it simply doesn't comprehend the harm it is inflicting.
3. What Carnation's citizens have concluded is that Seattle's alarm systems are unreliable. Seattle staff failed to empathize with Carnation's residents, indicating that the false alarm on August 22, 2023 had gone off for "only two seconds." It is clear that Seattle is unaware, unable to understand or unwilling to recognize the psychological damage its 2020 event had on Carnation's Residents.
4. Despite the lessons that should have been learned from the July, 2020 event, there still is no way to communicate "False alarm, all clear" out to Carnation's residents, and the perspective seems to be that it's somehow OUR responsibility to be able to do that.

5. Seattle has failed to fix its emergency alarm system. Seattle has failed to improve communications. Seattle has failed to create a functional partnership with emergency organizations, county and City of Carnation. Seattle has failed to learn from its mistakes. Seattle has failed by minimizing and dismissing the fear and trauma inflicted on the residents of Carnation.
6. Carnation has organized a community forum to outline desired changes to our relationship with Seattle on September 30, 2023 at 10 a.m. At Tolt Middle School. At this meeting we will discuss new elements such as:
 - Fines to the city of Seattle for any failure of the Tolt Dam Warning system and/or related communications.
 - The creation of an insurance instrument for the City of Carnation and its residents to mitigate the fact that neither Earthquake nor Flood insurance will cover a dam failure.
 - A third party emergency management evaluation of Carnation and surrounding infrastructure and its ability to insure timely evacuation of all residents in the event of an emergency – with recommendations for improvements the City of Seattle must make.
 - Annual Franchise fee to operate dam. To offset the direct costs to Carnation, communication and emergency supplies costs, maintenance costs, etc.
 - Annual Mitigation fee to fund mental health services to the community.