We gained so much, but we lost so much'
As Tacoma’s Hilltop changes, residents getting priced out

BY RYAN VANCE Staff reporter

n a recent after­noon, while sitting in a 3­story coffee­house in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood, Brendan Nelson leaned toward the window and pointed to storefronts that only a decade ago, were boarded­up buildings and vacant lots. “People want to see the Hilltop thrive and grow,” said Nelson, president of the Hilltop Action Coalition. “But not at the expense of displacing people.”

The historic Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma is feeling the squeeze of gentrification as Seattleites and their businesses migrate south. The neighborhood is living up to its namesake by the federal government, which listed it as a “distressed community” in 2000 for its gang­violence in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It has experienced a radical change in recent years. Where others today see a new sense of belonging emanating from the city’s growing music scene, but drop­in for lunch or dinner. Everyone who has seen Hilltop in the last 20 years has seen a transformation of the neighborhood. And the city’s officials expect more economic development in the community by 2022, when light rail is scheduled to run through the neighborhood in the main drag. That line will stop at the new light rail station at 7th and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, the neighborhood’s main drag.

Hilltop residents, particularly renters, can no longer pay with existing funding, the city is not able to keep up with the demand.

The mayor has indicated that Hilltop residents, particularly renters, can no longer pay with existing funding, the city is not able to keep up with the demand.

Taxpayers foot bill for fumbles in city pension

BY DANIEL GILBERT Seattle Times staff reporter

In the summer of 2015, officials announced the city of Seattle’s retirement fund realized that one of its investments was in trouble. By this point, the manager of the investment, Capital Point Partners, had found itself the subject of a lawsuit and was being sued by multiple states for its role in the failure of two failed Mexican pension funds. Now, Seattle’s pension fund has recommended that City Hall do just the opposite — save millions of dollars.

Today that investment is worth less than what the retirement system paid for it through the decade. With a $1.5 billion deficit on the books, it could save Seattle’s Retirement System some time to earn that amount.

Formerly known as the Olympic City, Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood is feeling the squeeze of gentrification as Seattleites and their businesses migrate south. Brendan Nelson, president of the Hilltop Action Coalition, moved with his family to Hilltop in a child of the summer of 1989 and now pursues for opportunities at AMERICAN MUSICAL FOOD, MONEY How Seattle musicians are coping in a pricey city

Last December, a transportation study from the Federal Transit Administration confirmed what many longtime Hilltop residents had long suspected:

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