



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800

www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director

Date: February 7, 2008

Subject: Draft Response Letter to Ms. Mary Peircey

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize Mayor Lauinger to sign a letter as presented responding to Ms. Mary Peircey.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Ms. Peircey's letter was received by Kirkland City Council on January 25, 2008. Her letter expressed concern regarding the possible closing of the fire station on NE 145th in the proposed annexation area and she also expressed her thoughts about the loss of the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train and rails to trails.

Attachments: Letter from Ms. Mary Peircey
Draft City Council response to Ms. Peircey

City Council
123 Fifth Ave.
Kirkland, Wa. 98033

Kirkland City Council

I understand the the City of Kirkland
may close the fire station on 145th,
by the Safeway - I am writing
this letter to convey to you this
is a bad idea & should not be
supported - the response would
be increased for fire & emergen-
cies - it is really a poor idea
to close one station - & build
a new one eight blocks away -
This is a huge waste of money

Thank you

Taxpayer

Mary Peercey
Highwood Land

Foot note

I am also very unhappy about the
lose of the dinner train -

Rails to Trails another bright idea
by Seattle City Council -

Is there some reason the eastside can
not have monorail - Light rail ????

February 20, 2008

DRAFT

Ms. Mary Peircey
14208 117th Place
Kirkland, Washington 98034-1107

Dear Ms. Peircey:

Thank you for your letter concerning the possible annexation of your neighborhood, the future of your local fire station, and its use in delivery of emergency services. The fire station you are referring to is currently owned and operated by Woodinville Fire and Life Safety District and it would be its decision as to the future use for delivery of services if City of Kirkland annexes the Juanita, Finn Hill and Kingsgate neighborhoods.

Kirkland City Council is carefully considering the possibility of annexing the area where you live. These discussions have brought up many questions as to how to best provide for the public safety needs. As we examine alternatives available to the City, we continue to look at many options in order to understand the best possible solution. It is our intent to explore all options before deciding which would be best for the citizens of Kirkland: both in the current city and a new larger city.

Specifically, you wrote to us about the possibility of the Kingsgate fire station closing and the building of a new fire station in another area of the potential annexation area. As the City Council analyzes the options available, we have requested staff to give us a true picture of the potential costs associated with taking on annexation. In one of the Fire Chief's estimate of costs to provide services, the cost of a new fire station was included.

As stated above, the Kingsgate fire station is owned and operated by Woodinville Fire and Life Safety District. Under an annexation scenario, the City of Kirkland cannot assume the outcome of the ownership or operation of this particular fire station, on NE 145th. While it may be possible for the fire station to continue to be used for service delivery, it is not a decision which has been made. In other options being considered, the Kingsgate fire station is used to model service delivery. We can surely understand your concern for continuing excellent emergency services.

The City Council wants to assure you the high level of service you receive today will continue to be our goal as we analyze the options available for providing services; if the Council decides to proceed with annexation. We appreciate your input and concern for your public safety services.

The additional comment in your letter referred to the loss of the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train and the Rails to Trails discussions occurring in the region. The existing Burlington Northern Sante Fe tracks in east King County have proven to be unprofitable for the railroad company to continue to own and operate. They therefore have been interested in selling their right-of-way. The Port of Seattle and King County have been working on an arrangement to purchase the right-of-way for future public use. There are many advocates for a future trail and there are proposals and discussions on having a trail along with a functioning rail.

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The City of Kirkland has been interested in using that corridor for a multi-purpose trail for many years. In addition, the City Council is aware of and open to possibilities for rail transit service along that line as well. We are interested in options that allow for both uses to operate in the existing rail right-of-way. We are excited about the possibilities of linking Kirkland with Renton, Bellevue, Woodinville and other locations without having to travel on existing congested streets or I-405.

We understand that Sound Transit, the agency responsible for regional transit and rail service, is considering that corridor for future rail use. There are still many regional discussions and decisions to be made relative to this corridor. The City of Kirkland's priorities are to first have the corridor available for public rather than private use. Our second priority is for a trail that provides room for future rail. Finally, our third priority is an affordable rail service along that important corridor.

There are many decisions yet to make, not the least of which are funding options, alignment issues, safety and other concerns. Another consideration we have in Kirkland is the potential conflict between rail crossings and public streets. We must ensure those streets and the rail crossings will function safely in the event of a bicycle, pedestrian, or rail traffic is on the rail right-of-way.

As you may be aware, the Dinner Train recently ended its service in Tacoma. This occurred regardless of the outcome of conversations to purchase the corridor from BNSF Railroad..

Thank you for expressing your interest in the future of the fire station in your neighborhood and the existing rail corridor. Please feel free to contact us again regarding this and other matters.

Sincerely,

KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

James L. Lauinger

Mayor

cc: Jeff Blake, Director of Fire & Building
Daryl Grigsby, Director of Public Works