



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800

www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: David Godfrey, P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager

Date: July 3, 2008

Subject: CORRESPONDENCE FROM MS. SARAH ANDEEN

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of response to Ms. Andeen who wrote to express her support for a car-free event.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Ms. Andeen expresses an idea that has been supported by various Councilmembers and staff over the past few years, that is an event where a street or streets are closed to vehicular traffic but open to pedestrians and cyclists.

Any event of this type would need to be treated as a special event. The city does not put on special events all though the City has certainly worked closely with and financially supported groups that plan and organize events.

The Active Living Task Force is an ideal forum to help nurture this idea. It combines staff from a variety of departments with citizens that are interested in events of this type. It is hoped that the Task Force could spawn a group that would be willing to take on planning and organization of the event. It could then be treated as a special event.

Via email
To Kirkland Council
6/27/08

Hello,

The City of Portland recently held a carfree day where they shut down several blocks of the city to all car traffic. This event was successful and people had a good time.

<http://www.portlandcarfreeday.org/>

The City of Seattle has been shutting down smaller sections of road to promote biking and walking and is considering adding more such events this summer.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008020287_carfreedays27m.html?syndication=rss

I would like to propose that the City of Kirkland host a Downtown carfree day. Since the roads into and out of Downtown are limited, restricting access would not be too difficult. The city could work with the KDA to set up booths and events on the street and perhaps host concerts in the Marina Park. This would be an excellent time to promote the new transit center and perhaps roll out some of the City's new bike and walking plans

It could also help enhance a sense of community in Downtown and bring awareas and business to Downtown retailers.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions about this proposal or if you would like any additional information.

Sarah Andeen
220 1st St #504
Kirkland, WA 98033
andeens@comcast.net

July 16, 2008

DRAFT

Sarah Andeen
220 1st St #504
Kirkland, WA 98033

Dear Ms. Andeen:

Thank you for your email to the Kirkland City Council concerning a car-free day in Kirkland. Your idea is a good one and one that the City has considered previously. Closing streets to celebrate cycling, walking and community building supports a number of goals and programs that City Council has been working on. It fits in with our sustainability initiatives, active living efforts and pedestrian safety measures.

A car-free event could be implemented in a number of ways, from a simple closure for a few hours to a day long closure over a bigger area. In any case, this would be handled as a special event. The City's Active Living Task Force may be able to connect you with other citizens that would be willing to work with you to organize and plan the event. We will ask the Task Force to put this matter on the agenda of its next meeting.

Sudie Elkayssi is the City's Special Events Coordinator (selkayssi@ci.kirkland.wa.us or 425 587-3347) and she would be happy to help you understand what needs to be done to put on the event.

Thank you again for your suggestion that is an opportunity for the Kirkland community to partner together and possibly create a new tradition.

Sincerely,
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

By James L. Lauinger, Mayor

cc: Sudie Elkayssi, Special Events Coordinator, Parks Department