



CITY OF KIRKLAND

City Manager's Office

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www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: Marilynne Beard, Assistant City Manager

Date: February 10, 2009

Subject: RESPONSE TO EMAIL FROM ROB BUTCHER CONCERNING ANNEXATION

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council approves the attached email response to Rob Butcher regarding an advisory vote on annexation.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council received an email from Rob Butcher requesting that the City Council hold an advisory vote on the potential annexation of Finn Hill, Juanita and Kingsgate. The draft response will be sent via email with Council's consent.

From: Rob Butcher [mailto:rob.butcher@mac.com]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 4:27 PM
To: KirklandCouncil
Subject: Request for Advisory Election on Annexation

Dear Honorable Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Kirkland City Councilmembers,

I respectfully request an advisory election on the issue of annexation to be held at the earliest opportunity coinciding with the next scheduled election. Annexation, if passed would change Kirkland forever. Waiting until the next scheduled election for an advisory ballot is a worthwhile investment of time.

Equality for all - let everyone vote

The people of Kirkland should be allowed an advisory election as a matter of fairness. If the Council were to approve annexation, Kirkland would then go to the residents of the Potential Annexation Area (PAA) for a vote. If the Council sees fit to allow the 33,000 residents of the PAA to vote on annexation, why would you not allow the same right to the 47,000 Kirkland citizens whom you represent? Fairness dictates you allow Kirkland to vote on annexation.

Annexation is being redefined

A pressing reason for returning to the people at this time is that annexation, as it is being redefined today, is substantially altered from annexation as it was presented to the public during the fall of 2007. The public needs to know how annexation is being redefined. The public needs to know the consequences of annexation, both good and bad. The public deserves a say in this process.

No cost to give Kirkland a vote

As per information from King County Elections, the cost of adding an advisory election to an existing ballot would be minimal: the cost of adding one page to the voter guide -- approximately \$600. If the City Council cannot find the resources with which to pay for this expense, I offer to pay the \$600 myself, as a gift to the City, to allow the people of Kirkland a say in our future.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to allow the people of Kirkland the opportunity to express our opinion on annexation. I ask you to let us vote. The issue of annexation is too important to prohibit the public from having an equal say in the future of Kirkland.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,

Rob Butcher

425-456-1111

DRAFT

March 4, 2009

Rob Butcher
Rob.butcher@mac.com

Dear Mr. Butcher;

Thank you for your letter regarding the potential annexation of Kingsgate, Juanita and Finn Hill. In your letter, you requested that the City Council hold an advisory vote of Kirkland residents on the question of annexation.

Throughout our extensive study of the potential annexation, the City Council has endeavored to keep Kirkland citizens informed and to provide ample opportunity for them to provide input to us. We have heard a variety of comments from our citizens and we understand your position relative to annexation.

At previous meetings, the City Council had decided not to hold an advisory vote. At the March 3 meeting, Council will be presented with updated information about annexation and will consider again whether to proceed. If the Council indicates an interest in proceeding with annexation, we will again plan for public outreach activities that fully inform and involve residents of Kirkland and the PAA about the annexation process and the Council's deliberations.

We appreciate your continued interest in this issue.

Sincerely,
Kirkland City Council

James Lauinger, Mayor