



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
Department of Parks & Community Services  
505 Market Street, Suite A, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300  
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** David Ramsay, City Manager

**From:** Carrie Hite, Deputy Director, Parks & Community Services  
Jennifer Schroder, Director, Parks & Community Services

**Date:** June 2, 2009

**Subject:** Draft response letter to Mr. Liam Knox RE: Indoor Pool

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize Mayor James Lauinger to sign a letter as presented or modified responding to Mr. Liam Knox.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

On April 29, 2009, a letter (Attachment 1) was received at the City, addressed to the Kirkland City Council, and authored by Mr. Liam Knox. In the letter, Mr. Knox stresses Kirkland's need for an indoor public pool.

For the City Council consideration is the draft response letter to Mr. Knox (Attachment 2)

Attachment 1: Letter from Liam Knox, 4/29/09  
Attachment 2: Draft City Council Response

April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009

**RECEIVED**

MAY 18 2009

CITY OF KIRKLAND  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Kirkland, Wa 98033

Dear Mr. Lauinger:

My name is Liam Knox, and I am writing to you about the need for an indoor pool in Kirkland.

The only pool we have is the Peter Kirk Pool, which is an outdoor facility so it can only be used when the weather is appropriate. Kirkland residents have to drive to Redmond or Bellevue to swim at an indoor pool especially during the nine months of the year when the Kirkland outdoor pool is closed. The Carol Ann Wald Pool at St. Edwards State Park is now closed, and the Juanita High School Pool might also be closed in the near future.

If you could begin to consider this issue, I would be happy to participate and get other people involved as well. If the City of Kirkland builds a public indoor pool, most people would be a lot happier and Peter Kirk Pool wouldn't be as crowded.

Another problem is that many pools are located in private health clubs. You have to be a member to use the pool and memberships cost a lot of money.

I hope you take this issue into consideration and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Liam Knox

June 17, 2009

**DRAFT**

Liam Knox  
6<sup>th</sup> Grader  
Peter Kirk Elementary School

Dear Liam:

Thank you for your letter to the Kirkland City Council dated April 29<sup>th</sup> in which you express concern and interest in the need for an indoor pool in Kirkland. The City of Kirkland supports quality of life and fitness opportunities for our citizens, and having an indoor pool would certainly help to achieve these goals.

As your letter states, the two indoor pools that serve Kirkland have been the Carole Ann Wald Pool in St. Edward Park and the Juanita Pool, located at Juanita High School. The State of Washington Parks Department recently closed the Carole Ann Wald Pool due to budget cuts. However, they are currently in discussions with possible partners to re-open and continue operation of this pool. The Lake Washington School District is also in conversation with possible partners to operate the Juanita Pool, as it is currently pending closure due to budgetary issues as well.

The City of Kirkland has recently completed a plan for a new indoor recreation center that includes a leisure pool, and a six-lane competitive lap pool. To see drawings of this proposed Center, go to the City's website and enter the words "indoor recreation center." The City is currently searching for land to build the Center, then money to build it.

The City is also in conversation with a community group – Swimming Pools for Leisure, Active Sports and Health (SPLASH) – that is working toward fulfilling aquatic needs in East King County. SPLASH seeks to bring together community partners to plan, construct, and operate a multi-purpose aquatic complex for all ages, ranges of health, level of experience, and recreation and athletic interests. You can learn more about them at [www.splashforall.org](http://www.splashforall.org). If you are interested, they would welcome your involvement.

If you would like to get involved in the City's efforts to have an Indoor Recreation Center in Kirkland, please contact Carrie Hite, Deputy Director of Parks and Community Services, at [chite@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:chite@ci.kirkland.wa.us), or 425-587-3320.

Thank you for taking the time to share your interests and concerns about having an indoor pool in Kirkland. Your letter will be shared with our Park Board.

Sincerely,

Kirkland City Council

By: James L. Lauinger, Mayor

cc: Park Board  
Jennifer Schroder, CPRP, Director, Parks & Community Services  
Carrie Hite, Deputy Director, Parks & Community Services