



CITY OF KIRKLAND
City Manager's Office
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Erin Leonhart, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

Date: October 22, 2009

Subject: LETTER TO KING COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE'S
PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET – ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL AND PARKS IN THE
POTENTIAL ANNEXATION AREA

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter to the King County Council related to Animal Care & Control and Parks funding in Executive Triplett's proposed 2010 budget.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

As presented at the October 20th City Council meeting, King County is projecting a \$56.4 million deficit in the 2010 General Fund. To address the deficit, King County Executive Kurt Triplett proposed a \$620.9 million budget that includes significant programmatic cuts. Some of the Executive's proposed cuts, if adopted, will have an impact on Human Services and Animal Care and Control currently provided to citizens in the city and the Potential Annexation Area. The Executive has also proposed elimination of funding for local parks in unincorporated areas, including six in Kirkland's Potential Annexation Area.

As requested during the meeting, Carrie Hite coordinated a joint letter from Kirkland, Redmond and Bellevue specific to Human Services funding. The attached letter addresses Kirkland's concerns about funding for Animal Care & Control and parks in Kirkland's PAA.

Attachment

November 3, 2009

DRAFT

Dow Constantine, Chair, King County Council
516 3rd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Executive Triplett's Proposed 2010 Budget

Dear Chair Constantine:

The City of Kirkland is writing regarding King County Executive Triplett's Proposed 2010 Budget and to request your leadership and support for the Animal Care and Control program and parks located in the Kirkland Potential Annexation Area. We recognize the severe budget challenges facing King County at this time and appreciate Executive Triplett's hard work to develop a strategy to overcome the \$56.4 million general fund deficit. We believe, given adequate time and working together, we can develop solutions to both issues.

Regarding the Animal Care and Control Program, Kirkland would like to request approval of funding through at least June 2010 to allow time for cities and the County to determine the best future direction in the interest of public health and safety. This is an important opportunity to address the needs of people and animals in King County for the long term that should not be rushed.

As you are aware, voters in the Kirkland Potential Annexation Area are considering annexation on the current ballot. If the voters elect to proceed with annexation, the Kirkland City Council will set an effective date and Kirkland and King County will begin negotiations related to infrastructure and services in the area. These negotiations will include discussions about near- and long-term maintenance of parks in the PAA. The City of Kirkland does not have adequate funding to maintain the parks prior to an annexation effective date. If annexation is to take place within the next two years, we request that the County budget one-time funding to continue maintenance of the parks until they become the City of Kirkland's responsibility.

Thank you for considering these requests during your 2010 Budget deliberations. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Leonhart, Intergovernmental Relations Manager at (425)587-3009 or ELeonhart@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

Sincerely,
Kirkland City Council

by James Lauinger, Mayor