



TOUCHSTONE CORPORATION

February 25, 2008

Design Review Board
City of Kirkland
123 Fifth Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033

Dear Board Members,

We appreciate all the thinking that you have put into our Kirkland Park Place proposal. In particular, many of your suggestions have broadened our perspective and helped make this a better project.

The plan as it stands today was launched from the springboard of the Kirkland Downtown Strategic Plan, and refined through many months of broad consultation with community members, experts such as Bob Gibbs, an entire architectural team including urban revitalization and open space specialists (Mark Hinshaw and Kris Snider, respectively).

As you go into your final deliberations, please know that we have made trade-offs to the best of our abilities to enable the active open space, pedestrian connections, underground parking and vibrant retail experience that you and your community have said you want.

The result of all our good faith efforts is a world-class proposal that has some 8-story buildings. We can not achieve all the community's goals and meet our basic financial threshold for this project without the height amendment that we are requesting.

We thank you again for your thoughtful consideration of what we know is a difficult decision.

Best,

Douglas Howe

ATTACHMENT <u>1</u>
ZON 07-00016
3/3/08 DRB Packet

