



CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

Written Public Comments For Meeting Of December 7, 2009

For those who do not wish to speak, but would like to make comments, please use this sheet. Your comments will be summarized and become part of the permanent record for this Council meeting. You may leave your completed sheet with the City Clerk. Thank you.

Please refer to the letter that
I request be entered into the record
of this meeting -

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CFTR: 12/14/09

Seattle, WA
December 7, 2009

Burien City Council
400 SW 152nd St.
Burien, WA 98166

Dear Burien City Council,

In a letter to you, dated September 21, 2009, the history and purpose of the White Center Library Guild were described. We also wanted to assure you that we had the commitment and resources to continue support of the White Center Library and indeed have begun to explore how we might support both the Greenbridge and Boulevard Park libraries. In short, we are strong advocates for libraries that have accessible services and address the needs of their immediate communities.

We therefore were taken by surprise to read newspaper and blog reports of the King County plan to sell the Puget Sound Park, which was included in the annexation agreement, and that the King County Library System had made an offer to purchase the area for a library that would likely replace both the White Center Library and the Boulevard Park library.

The library replacement bond measure, passed in September, 2004, provided funding for the Library System's 10 year capital budget. Because of the "age, condition and overcrowding of the current 6,370sq. ft. library: a new 10,000 sq. ft. replacement library on the current site", was proposed for the White Center Library. The proposed start date: 2009. Due to the pending annexation, this start date was put on hold.

It is our opinion that the White Center Library, at its present location, provides an essential service to the White Center Community. In addition to a steady increase for books and other items, the library provides computer support for the homework of school age children, educational programs for parents and teachers, ESL classes and Game times for youth. The library "door counts" for September and October of this year were 10,346 and 8,595 respectively. Many of those who walk in the door have walked, bicycled or pushed a child in a stroller to get there.

The White Center community was once described by its native son, poet Richard Hugo as a "triggering town". The energy, enthusiasm, diversity and creativity were certainly on display last Saturday at the Community "Summit", organized by the White Center Community Development Association. To have the assets of this community added to the assets of a growing urban municipality will enrich life in south King County for us all.

Your invitation to participate in City government was very much appreciated and was taken seriously. We ask once again to allow us to share our perspectives, especially on matters of social and educational infrastructure that can contribute to our everyday well-being.

Sincerely, *Rachael Levine, Chair*

The White Center Library Guild
White Center Library
11220 16th Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98146

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