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MAR 24 2010
CITY OF BURIEN

Seattle, Washington
March 23, 2010

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

Dear Burien City Council,

Having attended the Council meeting on March 8, during which you voted to proceed with drafting a resolution for the annexation of the remainder of North Highline, your action at the meeting last night was not what I expected.

As a resident of the newly annexed part of North Highline, I came to hear comments on the resolution, which I saw as a first step in uniting the entire North Highline community with that of Burien. I looked forward to the passing of the resolution as a way of welcoming all the residents of North Highline into the community, even if the present circumstances might necessitate postponing the annexation itself.

Frankly, I was disappointed that the Council seemed unable to clearify the intent of the resolution and instead passed a motion to withdraw the resolution. This action grew in part out of the Highline Times false headline and the heated reactions that were expressed from audience. There undoubtedly were others who expressed concerns about the costs of the additional annexation before the meeting, as well as those who brought this information to the meeting.

I can understand the reluctance, indeed the prudence, of the Council to not pursue additional annexation at this time. For me, a resolution that indicated an interest in this future action would say to the greateer North Highline community that their resources and contributions to the building of greater Burien community would be valued and that our neighbors would not be seen as "those people", but would be welcomed to participate in the development of a rich, diverse and vital community into the future.

It is my hope that members of the Council and your City Manager, Mike Martin, will continue to attend meetings of the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council. There they will witness the reports on public safety that would refute the assertions about crime in White Center. There the great efforts of citizen volunteers to steward the assets of the North Highline community will be seen.

I, personally, will continue to advocate for the White Center and Boulevard Park libraries, as they provide valuable resouces for the whole community. We need to capture the capital funds to improve these libraries that were provided in the 2004 KCLS bond.

Thank you for your dedicated work on behalf of the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Rachael Levine

Rachael Levine
430 S. 124th St.
Seattle, WA 98168

cc North Highline Unincorporated Area Council

CFTR: 04/05/10