

## Lisa Clausen

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**From:** Public Council Inbox  
**To:** Chestine Edgar  
**Subject:** RE: Letter that was sent by the City of Burien about annexation that was not disclosed to the citizens

Your correspondence has been received. It will be included in the Correspondence for the Record for a future Council meeting.

L. Clausen  
City Manager's Office

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**From:** Chestine Edgar [mailto:c\_edgar2@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 06, 2011 6:26 PM  
**To:** joe.fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov; Public Council Inbox  
**Subject:** Fw: Letter that was sent by the City of Burien about annexation that was not disclosed to the citizens

--- On Mon, 6/6/11, Chestine Edgar <c\_edgar2@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Chestine Edgar <c\_edgar2@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Letter that was sent by the City of Burien about annexation that was not disclosed to the citizens  
To: bob.ferguson@kingcounty.gov, larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov, kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov, larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov, julia.patterson@kingcounty.gov, jane.hague@kingcounty.gov, pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov, joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov, reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov, kcexec@kingcounty.gov, billp@kcls.org, cwaldman@northhighlineuac.org  
Date: Monday, June 6, 2011, 12:50 AM

To King County Library Board-letter recipient  
To Dow Constantine-letter recipient  
To Joe Mc Dermott-letter recipient  
To Bill Ptacek-letter recipient  
To Christine Waldman-letter recipient  
To King County Council-letter recipient  
To Eileen Cody-elected representative  
To Sharon Nelson-elected representative  
To Joe Fitzgibbon-elected representative  
To the King County Council

It is my understanding that the City of Burien sent each of you a letter-May 27, 2011-stating that the City is going to try to fast track the Annexation of White Center to the City of Burien by a City Council vote within the next 30 to 60 days. As a citizen, I find this to be a complete violation of the concept of transparent and democratic government. This letter was not disclosed to the citizens of Burien.

The citizens of Burien have been told that they would get a complete financial report on the annexation of the first North Highline area. We have not still gotten that report. Additionally, we have been told that an annexation of the White Center area would not be considered until 2012 and not until a complete financial analysis of what the real cost of White Center would cost to annex. It would not be considered until the work on the Burien Comprehensive Plan update and the city master plan committees had done their work. Also, we were told the the Economic Development Partnership Citizen Advisory Committee would meet with the Council to discuss city finances before this possible annexation would be considered. As you will recall, Seattle has turned down the White Center area for annexation several times because of the prohibitive costs-\$10 million more per year to run the area than it brings in-in tax dollars. The crime rate, economic issues

CFTR: 06/20/11

and social issues are so great in this area that a city the size of Seattle is concerned that it does not have the excess resources to manage this area. And yet each time I hear Mr. McDermott speak to Burien about this area, he tries to pass off White Center to the City of Burien as an area that it can easily take on with the help of the King County Council. As a citizen, I do not appreciate the County trying to dump this area off on to a small city that in no way has the economic base, resources or agencies that Seattle has.

However, what I find even more offensive is that the mayor of Burien would try to fast track this passed the citizens of Burien. This letter has not been made available for the Burien citizens or the media to see and yet the Council may try to vote on the issue of annexation as early this Monday night 6/6/11. It is clearly an effort to try to quickly get this through before the Burien citizens even get a chance to speak about their concerns on this issue or to even see a quality analysis of what the real costs of what this annexation would be.

Frankly, the issue of one library in White Center and Mr. Ptacek's desire to get cheap construction rates should not override the rights of the Burien Citizens to have information and a solid voice on whether or not they think they can afford to annex this sorely neglected stepchild of King County. This whole process smells like five day old road kill.

Each time the annexation of White Center has come up, numerous Burien citizens have been opposed to it. And let's not play the sympathy or guilt cards about race, minorities, embracing the poor because this discussion is not about those issues. The real discussion is about economics and crime. That is precisely why King County is trying to get rid of the area. King County would have no concerns about keeping and maintaining the area of Medina or the area of Mercer Island. Burien is already the single city in King County with the highest % of low income people and low income housing- thanks to King County dumping all of that housing in our city. It is now some other city's responsibility to start picking up the tax bills and social responsibility for King County's grouping all of the economically poor into one area of the county for the last 50 years. Now that King County no longer wants to pay or maintain services for this large group of needy citizens that it has dumped into one place- further exasperating the crime and educational problems of the area.

The annexation of the North Highline area was done through a very devious and questionable process by the City of Burien. Over 2500 Burien citizens signed a petition not to annex the area. In spite of Burien citizens input and Burien citizens wanting to have a right to vote on the issue, the Council and the City Manager put the annexation vote on the primary ballot for a vote only for non citizens to vote on. We never got to see an economic analysis of what annexation was projected to cost. This was done to get around real citizen opinion on the issue. The City knew that very few citizens of North Highline would vote in the primary so it would take very few votes to pass annexation. Next the City of Burien hired a PR group to go out and sell annexation to a very small targeted group of people from North Highline- just enough to pass the vote. As a citizen I paid out of my tax dollars in excess of \$17 per yes vote for an annexation that I did not want or believe that the city could support long term- when the King County monies disappeared. Out of 14,000+ people in North Highline, only 1,380- less than 10% of the population in the area to be annexed- voted to join the City of Burien. 1104 people voted against annexation in that area. The number of people who voted to join the City of Burien was less than the people who signed the petition not to even have annexation put onto the ballot. This is not the way that a democracy is intended to function. And to add insult to injury, both the Burien City Council and the City Manager have never even given the Burien citizens the courtesy of an economic report on what annexation has really cost. Additionally, on repeated occasions the City Staff has incorrectly reported the voting results on that election to the public. This Burien model of government sucks.

Burien citizens have the right to know about this next annexation plan in advance by the City of Burien and they have the right to be given the appropriate amount of time to speak about the issue and to be heard. Burien citizens have a right to a full public disclosure of the costs before the Council votes to consideration another annexation. This City is in economic trouble. Take a look at the vacant Town Square Project, the collapsed car dealerships and the numerous closed businesses. As a city, we cannot correctly support the maintenance of our parks. Our schools appear to be in the low and failing category because of the excessive number of economically low income families and immigrants we have housed in the city. Yet King County would like to have Burien to still take on more of the poor in the county. Since the North Highline annexation, our taxes have been raised two times. As elected representatives of the Burien citizens you have the responsibility to encourage the City to protect citizen rights in a democracy. This covert methodology to try to have Burien annex White Center because Bill Ptacek can't decide which library to close is not how honest, transparent government of the people, by the people and for the people is supposed to work.

Frankly Sharon Nelson, I cannot believe that the citizens on Vashon Island would tolerate this kind of situation. The citizens in Burien should not be expected to either. Burien citizens have a right to know about what the mayor has promised to you and a right to speak to the issue. After all these Burien citizens will be footing the bill.

Lastly, Mr. Robison who is an appointed City Council member for Burien is a business owner in White Center and helps runs the major White Center the business publicity event, White Jubilee Center Days. He clearly has an economic

and political conflict of interest on any White Center issues and for that reason should recuse himself from voting on the White Center annexation issue.

Sincerely,  
Chestine Edgar

