

June 4, 2004

Councilmembers  
City of Lake Forest Park  
C/o Susan Stine, City Clerk  
17425 Ballinger Way NE  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155-5556

To the Clerk of the City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park:

I am returning herewith Ordinance 907 and my written objections thereto:

Councilmembers,

I have carefully considered the action I am about to take regarding Ordinance 907. Following the passage of Ordinance 907 on May 27, I have had the opportunity to talk with councilmembers individually and to discuss the City Council's concerns with the County Executive. There have been significant changes and a new opportunity to work together with King County. I want to share with you my thinking on Ordinance 907 and describe the opportunity for a collaborative and equal relationship with King County.

- I believe that we have received more comments on this ordinance than perhaps any other ordinance during my tenure. The response by residents of Lake Forest Park has been overwhelmingly opposed to the passage of this ordinance.
- I share the City Council's commitment to maintaining high environmental standards for all construction in the City. However, there are still many questions that need to be answered. More research is needed on the subject of pervious materials that might be available for trails and their suitability in sensitive areas.
- You, as a City Council, have been very clear that your primary concerns are with the safety of trail users and trailside residents and with having "a seat at the table" when it comes to making decisions about future changes to the trail. Ordinance 907 does not address these central, overriding concerns.
- I have a commitment from the King County Executive that an interlocal agreement between the City and King County can and will be crafted to address the concerns of the City Council and the community. Such an agreement will address the following areas: **safety** – related to speeding and stop signs;

**environmental** concerns; **liability** concerns of adjacent property owners; **maintenance** of the trail; **enforcement** of trail regulations; and an acknowledgement and recognition of the **unique characteristics** that are present along the section of the trail within the City of Lake Forest Park. We **have** “a seat at the table.”

- I believe that a Citizens Advisory Task Force, made up of Lake Forest Park residents, is needed to help advise the City Council and me through the redevelopment study process. I have a commitment from Ron Sims, County Executive to form such a Task Force.
- I agree with the City Council that the communication between the County and the City has been inadequate. I have a commitment from Ron Sims that the County’s project team will be reorganized and that through the interlocal agreement we will clearly define the project as a partnership.

This has become an overly contentious and divisive issue for our community. I am suggesting an approach that will provide a mechanism to turn this into a collaborative process. I will be asking you, the City Council, to table your reconsideration of Ordinance 907 and your consideration of Ordinance 909 until our July 22 City Council meeting. This will provide everyone - the City, the County and the community - the opportunity to move forward together to clearly define our expectations and establish the process that will result in improvements to the Burke Gilman Trail. I will have an outline of an interlocal agreement for Council’s review and comment at our June 10 City Council meeting. I intend to bring back a final interlocal agreement for your action on or before July 22. I ask for your support and involvement in this process.

Based upon the authority vested in me under RCW 35A as the elected Mayor of the City of Lake Forest Park, I hereby veto Ordinance 907.

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David R. Hutchinson  
Mayor