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City of Bellevue



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November 27, 2002

1202-012

The Honorable Ron Sims
King County Executive
King County Courthouse, Room 400
516 - Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-2312

Dear Executive Sims:

RECEIVED DEC - 4 2002
KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
TO: DNR
DUE DATE: 12-18-2002
AUTHOR: MARSHALL, C
SUBJECT: PARKS
 ACTION
 RESPONSE FOR EXEC. SIG.
 RESPOND FOR EXECUTIVE
REVIEWED BY _____

On behalf of the Bellevue Council I would like to thank you for working with the City to bring about the transfer of Eastgate Park from the County to the City. The City is anxious to complete the transfer process and appreciates your assistance and the work of your staff over the past few months towards achieving this goal.

This letter sets forth the understanding and responsibilities of the City and the County for pre-annexation activities of the area known as "Eastgate" in which the park is located.

Eastgate is by far the largest remaining portion of unincorporated land within the City's Potential Annexation Area. Future annexation of this area will benefit citizens by consolidating service boundaries and improving the ability to address land use, transportation, and other issues in a large island surrounded by Bellevue. Annexation of this area also follows through on the City's commitment to provide urban services within our portion of the Urban Growth Area, and to complete the City's boundaries as adopted in the Annexation Element of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan.

Consistent with the issues outlined above, the Council is hopeful that the Eastgate area will be part of Bellevue in the near future. However, the City estimates that the area's annual operating costs exceed revenues by between \$150,000 and \$400,000, plus general CIP costs estimated at over \$5 million. Given the budget impacts of taking on urban service responsibilities for Eastgate, the City cannot pursue annexation of the area at this time without causing tax increases or service reductions elsewhere in Bellevue. We expect this situation will change and that the prospects for annexation will improve when the economy improves.

To further the annexation discussion, the City is willing to participate with the County in paving the way for a future annexation vote or other mechanism of annexation if approved by the Legislature. Bellevue will join the County in hosting one to two informational meetings in 2004 and two meetings in 2005, to

The Honorable Ron Sims
November 22, 2002
Page 2

14534

describe the benefits of annexation and answer residents' questions. The City is willing to share equally with the County the cost for any such meetings or other joint preliminary pre-annexation activities.

Again, thank you for working cooperatively with the City on this issue.

Sincerely,



Connie B. Marshall
Mayor

cc: Bellevue Council