



Gregory J. Nickels
Mayor of Seattle

January 22, 2009

The Honorable Rose Clark
Acting Mayor of Burien
15811 Ambaum Blvd SW, Suite C
Burien, WA 98166

Dear Mayor Clark:

Thank you for your recent letter notifying all parties of the City of Burien's desire to modify the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was part of the recently mediated settlement regarding the annexation of the North Highline area.

As you are aware, all parties to the MOU negotiated with a common presumption that residents in North Highline would have the opportunity to vote on their future governance. I believe the manner of annexation is ultimately a policy decision for each city and is more appropriately addressed by the legislative bodies of our respective jurisdictions.

Therefore we are proposing to amend the Seattle City Council's resolution to endorse the MOU by including language that re-affirms Seattle's policy that annexation of the North Highline communities is by the election method. We believe this is the best approach and sends a clear message to the residents of North Highline.

Again, I want to thank you for your cooperation throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Tim Ceis
Deputy Mayor

cc: The Honorable Julia Patterson, King County Council President
The Honorable Ron Sims, King County Executive
The Honorable Gary Hobbick, Chairman, King County Fire District #2
The Honorable Ron Malaspino, Chairman, North Highline Fire District
Kurt Triplett, Chief of Staff, King County Executive's Office
Chief Mike Marrs, King County Fire District #2
Chief Scott LaVielle, North Highline Fire District

CFTR 2-2-09

RESOLUTION _____

1
2 A RESOLUTION endorsing a Memorandum of Understanding intended to resolve an overlapping
3 Potential Annexation Area (PAA) between Seattle and Burien.

4 WHEREAS, the City of Seattle designated the Unincorporated North Highline area (North Highline) as a
5 PAA in its 2006 update of the Comprehensive Plan; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2006, the City of Burien also designated North Highline as a PAA in Burien's
7 Comprehensive Plan; and

8 WHEREAS, the Growth Management Planning Council of King County recently amended the
9 Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) (Policy LU-32) to provide a process for resolving the
10 overlapping North Highline PAA between Seattle and Burien; and

11 WHEREAS, Policy LU-32 in the CPPs encourages Seattle and Burien to resolve the overlapping North
12 Highline PAA through negotiation; and

13 WHEREAS, the Executive has negotiated a proposed MOU with Burien, King County, and the fire
14 districts that provide fire service in North Highline (Fire Districts 2 and 11);

15 WHEREAS, the proposed MOU designates two separate areas that comprise the North Highline PAA
16 (Area X and Y), with Seattle agreeing to restrict a potential annexation of North Highline to Area
17 Y and Burien agreeing to restrict a potential annexation of North Highline to Area X, as shown
18 in Attachment 1; and

19 WHEREAS, Area Y does not include the unincorporated South Park area and Seattle will not consider
20 annexing this area until King County funds the replacement of the existing 14th/16th Avenue
21 South Bridge; and

22 WHEREAS, the proposed MOU commits the City of Burien in joining with Seattle and King County in
23 advocating for legislation that would provide up to \$5 million in financial assistance to Seattle if
24 Seattle proceeds with annexation of Area Y; and

25 WHEREAS, the City Council has stated that it will only proceed with annexation if there is a financial
26 plan to support the provision of City services to the annexed area, and the proposed legislation
27 would be a major step towards meeting this condition;

28 **WHEREAS, the City Council re-affirms its policy that annexation of the North Highline
29 communities, by the election method, is the preferred option; and**

30 WHEREAS, approval of this agreement does not commit the City to proceed with annexation of Area Y;

31 NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR
CONCURRING, THAT:**

Section 1. The City Council expresses its approval of the attached MOU in substantially the form attached hereto as Attachment 1.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2009, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this ____ day of _____, 2009.

President _____ of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2009.

City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachment 1: Memorandum of Understanding