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CITY OF BURIEN

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Burien, WA 98166

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Office of Joan McGilton
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Dear Burien City Mayor:

The population in the city of Burien is a little over thirty thousand people. And yet we do not have our own city of Burien police officers. I think that instead of leasing officers from King County, we should fund our own police. A much smaller city such as Normandy Park which only has around six thousand residents can and does fund their own police department. I believe that if the city of Burien were to fund their own police we would have a much safer community. And there would be a lower crime rate. The city of Normandy Park has a lot fewer crimes than the city of Burien.

Many critics of this idea would argue that it would cost too much to fund our own police force. In response to that each year the city pays King County hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars to lease the officers for our community. The city of Burien collects millions of dollars each year in taxes from its residents, where is that money going to? Why would a city that collects taxes from thousands of people not fund their own police. Maybe if the city did not spend tens of millions of dollars on a new town square they could spend the money on keeping the current city safe.

Another argument people might bring up against my idea is that the city already has a police department. In response to that some of the things that most people don't know about the King County police that are in Burien is that if a business alarm is set off during the night the police will not respond. I know from first hand experience what damage that can cause to a business. Another thing that I learned from talking with a deputy is that if you are a King county police officer you are not required to take a fitness test unless you are a beginner or after an injury. Many people would say why does that matter?. It does matter because a lot of crimes happen by foot where a police car can not go. And do you really think that a three hundred pound police officer can catch up to a robber. Current research I have conducted shows that the number of reported crimes in Burien in more than doubled that then the city of Normandy Park.. And in our city the police officers are a lot more lenient on speeding cars. In the 2005 and five Highline High

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School year book in stated some of the most dangerous intersections. And one of them was in Burien. I have seen people speeding twenty miles over the speed limit and noone does anything about that. And I think that if Burien had their own PD our community would be alot safer

Inconclusion I believe that the city of Burien would greatly benefit from having more and stricter law enforcement officers. And the best way to provide that is with our own poice officers. And yes it would cost alot of money but in the long run i think it would cut the cost down. I hope that the city can change it's law enforcement policies by 2015. I as someone who lives in Burien to be able to drive and walk around in our comminity and feel safe, and that if something were to happen I could count on the local police to keep the situation under control and everyone safe.

Sincerley,

Josh Sandell