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September 4, 2013 **(REVISED)**

Lenora Blauman, Executive Secretary
Washington State Boundary Review Board
400 Yesler Way, Room 240
Seattle, Washington 98104

Subject: **Response to Notice of Public Hearing**
File No. 2347 – City of Issaquah – Klahanie Annexation

Dear Honorable Board:

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The Issaquah City Council has scheduled a vote of the residents of the Klahanie Potential Annexation Area (PAA) to decide if they wish to annex to the City of Issaquah. A public hearing has been scheduled before the Boundary Review Board on September 18, 2013 at 7pm.

The City of Sammamish, as an affected governmental unit, has been notified by the Boundary Review Board (BRB) that a written position statement from the City of Sammamish may be provided to the BRB by September 5, 2013. This letter is hereby submitted to the BRB for consideration.

The City of Sammamish wishes to express its objection to the current annexation process. The City wishes to express its interest in exploring annexation of greater Klahanie in the event the annexation to Issaquah is unsuccessful, in accordance with the objectives of RCW 26.93.180, as met by the City of Sammamish.

KEY DATES

- April 1995 – Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan includes the Klahanie area as a Potential Annexation Area.
- August 1999 – City of Sammamish Incorporates.
- May 2001 – Sammamish City Council expresses its desire to include Klahanie as PAA.
- May 2002 – Issaquah's Mayor signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Sammamish to agree to remove Klahanie from Issaquah's PAA. (MOU is attached hereto.)
- September 2002 – Issaquah reaffirms Klahanie as PAA, unilaterally cancelling the MOU.

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- November 2005 – Annexation vote held for Klahanie. Residents vote to annex to Issaquah but not assume existing debt. Issaquah City Council decides not to approve annexation.
- January 2013 – Annexation Study Undertaken.
- June 2013 – Annexation Study Completed.
- June 2013 – Sammamish Council unanimously passes motion supporting annexation to Sammamish if Issaquah doesn't annex Klahanie.
- July 2013 – Issaquah City Council approves resolution of intent to annex Klahanie and put on February ballot.
- September 18, 2013 – Boundary Review Board Public Hearing to collect public testimony.
- February 2014 – Election for Klahanie PAA residents to vote on whether to annex to Issaquah.

COMMENTS FOR BRB CONSIDERATION

Below are comments from the City of Sammamish Council related to the potential annexation of the area referred to as the Klahanie PAA. They have been organized around the applicable Boundary Review Board Objectives.

(The boundary review board is directed by RCW 36.93.180 to “attempt to achieve” the following objectives with respect to an annexation.)

BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD OBJECTIVES

- a. Preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities
 - A large population of children in this area reside within the school boundaries of Skyline High School located in Sammamish.
 - The City Council has heard from residents of the Klahanie PAA that they think of themselves and identify with other residents of the Sammamish Plateau, the majority of whom are located in the City of Sammamish.
 - PAA Residents will be utilizing the new Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center and other recreational activities.
 - PAA residents currently make use of Sammamish parks and attend our events like the 4th on the Plateau and the Summer Concert series at Pine Lake Park.

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- b. Use of physical boundaries, including but not limited to bodies of water, highways and land contours.
 - Sammamish borders on approximately 60% of the proposed annexation area's boundary; the Urban Growth Boundary borders on approximately 35% of the proposed annexation area's boundary; Issaquah borders 5% of the proposed annexation area's boundary.
 - The PAA is located on the Sammamish Plateau. Only a small portion of Issaquah is on the Sammamish Plateau.
- c. Creation and preservation of logical service areas
 - Police Services may be more efficiently provided from Sammamish. Given Sammamish's operating agreement with the King County Sheriff's office, the city has immediate access to all of the King County Sheriff's resources.
 - King County Sheriff has a precinct located in Sammamish City Hall and Deputies currently provide services to the area from Sammamish City Hall.
 - Police back-up is provided in the proposed annexation area by City of Sammamish Officers.
 - The Sammamish Police Department currently patrols along 60% of the proposed annexation area common border.
 - Fire Services are currently provided by adjacent Station #83, owned by the City of Sammamish.
 - Sammamish is considering leaving the Eastside Fire & Rescue Consortium at the end of 2014. If Sammamish leaves, it is likely that fire station #83, which serves both cities, will need to be relocated (if Klahanie is not a part of Sammamish) to better provide services to Sammamish residents. Consequently, Issaquah's response times may significantly increase and the level of service may significantly diminish.
 - Water and Sewer Services are provided by the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District with headquarters in the City of Sammamish. The majority of Sammamish citizens are already serviced by the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District.
 - Public Safety and Public Works Maintenance is a greater burden on Issaquah than in Sammamish, due to the proximity of the City's Police and Public Works Shops
 - In addition, Sammamish's fiscal position is the strongest in the region. Sammamish most recently was rated AAA by Standard & Poors for General Obligation debt. Issaquah's rating is AA+.
 - Sammamish and PAA residents are dependent on local arterial roadways bordering the PAA.
 - Sammamish is better financially prepared to provide repair and maintenance of these arterial roadways.

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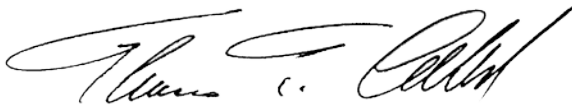
d. Prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries

- Sammamish borders on a far greater portion of the proposed annexation area's boundary. The potential annexation area shares 0.3 miles with Issaquah. The PAA borders 3.5 miles with Sammamish. As is outlined in Section 3.1 of the May 6, 2002 Memorandum of Understanding—"For example, after review, Issaquah may decide to retain the area south of SE 48th St extended, between Issaquah-Pine Lake and Issaquah-Fall City Roads within its PAA and transfer the remainder of the Klahanie PAA to Sammamish"—the proposed annexation boundaries could be adjusted to clearly prevent abnormally irregular boundaries. This would also eliminate arterial corridors being bounded by different cities, thereby clarifying maintenance and operations responsibilities.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the City of Sammamish objects to the current Klahanie Annexation effort, while expressing concerns about the preservation of neighborhoods and community, existing physical boundaries, the preservation of logical service areas, and the avoidance of irregular and less functional boundaries. Should it not succeed, the City of Sammamish would welcome the opportunity to explore annexation of Klahanie to the City of Sammamish.

Sincerely,



Thomas T. Odell, Mayor

Attachments:

- May 6, 2002 Memorandum of Understanding
- September 3, 2013 David Kappler Comments

Cc: Sammamish City Council
Ben Yazici, Sammamish City Manager
Issaquah City Council
Eva Frisinger, Mayor of Issaquah