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November 19, 2014

The Honorable Stephen H. Buxbaum
Mayor of the City of Olympia
PO Box 1967
Olympia, Washington 98507

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City of Olympia
Executive Department

CC: COUNCIL
STEVE
JAY
KEITH
LEONARD

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Recently the City of Olympia Land use and Environmental Committee met (October 23, 2014) and discussed possible future annexations by the City of Olympia. The committee had previously directed city staff to examine and or develop an annexation plan for areas within the urban growth boundary that would benefit from annexation and be logical additions to the city in the near future. Prior to this meeting, Mr. Todd Stamm, Principal Planner for the City of Olympia and Greg Wright, Assistant Chief of the City of Olympia met with Warren Peterson, Fire Chief of Thurston County Fire District 6 in the spirit of cooperation, to look at the potential annexation effecting District 6.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input in this process as well as the cooperative community spirit that has been displayed to this point. Chief Peterson will continue to serve as our point of contact moving forward in the process.

In the initial meeting, and subsequently in the land use meeting, Mr. Stamm identified an area south of Ward Lake for annexation consideration, and advised that the city had already purchased a park site that was undeveloped. The concern was that if the park was developed in the near future it would be outside of city-provided police services. The boundary that Fire District 6 proposes addresses that concern, as well as the intent of the City of Olympia's Urban Growth Management and Annexation Policy and Goals.

We suggest the city limit annexation to the area south of Ward Lake and North of Yelm Highway. A possible eastern logical limit would be Boulevard Rd. Of greatest concern is the city expanding annexation to the southern Urban Growth Boundary limit, which would have a significant negative impact on Fire District 6's assessed valuation, revenue, and fiscal stability. The area we suggest includes the Ward Lake park site as well as the residential development just west of Boulevard Rd. The City of Olympia Urban Growth Management Goal 2 states that logical boundaries should be used and this suggestion is readily-identifiable with easy to understand major highway traffic arteries. This area provides for a measured step while allowing District 6 to phase in the fiscal impacts of annexation.

We look forward to a continued spirit of cooperation as we move through this process.

Sincerely,

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 6

Gary Pearson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

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