

RESOLUTION NO. 1159 (2004)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOTHELL, WASHINGTON, STATING THE CITY'S POSITION REGARDING KING COUNTY'S SITING OF TENT CITY4

WHEREAS, the City of Bothell understands and has empathy for the needs of homeless men and women in the region; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is not to criticize the people who are in this situation, nor the organizations dedicated to assisting them; and

WHEREAS, the City is disappointed and dismayed at the lack of public process that was involved in this high-impact decision, especially including the lack of communication and notification to the neighboring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in the late afternoon of Friday, April 30, the City of Bothell and its citizens learned of the decision to allow Tent City4 to be erected on May 6 at the Brickyard Park and Ride property in unincorporated King County, leaving no time for public process; and

WHEREAS, on the afternoon of Friday, May 14, 2004, the City of Bothell learned of the decision to allow Tent City4 to be erected on May 17, on the St. Brendan Church campus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bothell believes that appropriate time must be allocated for information to be shared, as well as comments to be received from concerned citizens, prior to a final decision; and

WHEREAS, the St. Brendan Church site is within the Bothell city limits, and the permitting process that is, in most cases, necessary prior to locating such an encampment was not followed; and

WHEREAS, it may be that Tent City4 will be a good neighbor, and that no negative incidents will occur; and

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WHEREAS, it may be that, given the opportunity to learn about Tent City4, the neighborhood and others in the community may have worked with the County and St. Brendan Church to address the many concerns and issues that have been identified to make this site work; and

WHEREAS, there was a distinct lack of communication and public process with the City of Bothell and Bothell citizens about this sudden agreement between King County, SHARE/WHEEL, and St. Brendan Church, resulting in the City of Bothell being notified three days prior to Tent City4 being located on the St. Brendan Church campus; and

WHEREAS, the decision was presented as a *fait accompli*, with no regard for the wishes, concerns, and fears of the residents in the area.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOTHELL, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City of Bothell wants to emphasize, in no uncertain terms, that this type of action by King County, without a meaningful and timely public process, is totally unacceptable, particularly to the neighbors of this site.

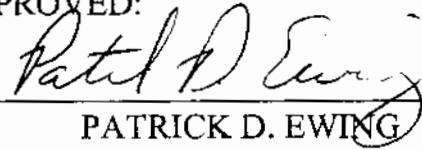
Section 2. The issues are (a) whether the County has the authority to unilaterally agree to locate this temporary homeless camp on property within the Bothell City Limits; (b) that the appropriate permitting process be followed; (c) that the citizenry and the local jurisdictions be kept informed about what is happening in their neighborhoods, and provided the opportunity for meaningful input before a final decision is made; and (d) the City has the legal obligation to do everything in its power to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all of Bothell's citizens, including the homeless.

Section 3. It is the City of Bothell's belief that the best course of action related to almost any controversial issue is to engage and listen to the people.

Accordingly, the City of Bothell asks that King County, SHARE/WHEEL and St. Brendan Church immediately engage in a process that will result in the appropriate permitting and legal siting of Tent City4, in Bothell or in any other location, as absolutely soon as possible.

PASSED this 17th day of May, 2004.

APPROVED:



PATRICK D. EWING
MAYOR

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:


JOANNE TRUDEL
CITY CLERK

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: May 17, 2004
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: May 17, 2004
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