



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

2002 595

December 2, 2002

The Honorable Cynthia Sullivan
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Sullivan:

Attached is proposed legislation that would authorize the transfer of the Auburn Pool to the Auburn School District. Given the continuing fiscal crisis of the County requiring significant reduction in the County's provision of non-mandated services, we can no longer provide services such as in-city aquatics as the cost of mandated services require larger proportions of the County's general fund.

The negotiations as to the final disposition of the Auburn Pool are still ongoing. We are still pursuing dual tracks as to the pool's transfer to the Auburn School District and with the Northwest Center for the Retarded to maximize all options for continued operation in some fashion in 2003. Indeed, it is possible that no agreement will be reached.

The attachment to the proposed ordinance is a working draft of the interlocal agreement under consideration by school district and offered with the understanding that the Council will amend the proposed legislation to incorporate the final form of the agreement. I am submitting this legislation to you in less than final form because of the need to comply with public notice requirements under state law and to be responsive to the scheduling requirements of the Council as the calendar year closes.

The Auburn Pool transfer legislation, as drafted, declares an emergency resulting from the fiscal crisis and concern of all involved that alternative arrangements be made to ensure continued provision of these in-city services in some fashion. The pool transfers must be effective by year-end to prevent closure of the facilities. Further, the cost to the County of closing the facilities will require expenditure of County funds otherwise available to our partners for ongoing operation of the facilities in 2003.

Please note that I have also transmitted legislation for Council consideration that would authorize the transfer of the Auburn Pool to the Northwest Center for the Retarded, should that alternative be pursued instead.



The Honorable Cynthia Sullivan

December 2, 2002

Page 2

It is my hope that negotiations with the affected cities, Auburn School District, and the Northwest Center for the Retarded conclude shortly so that the Council is able to act on this emergency legislation in an amended form at your final Council meeting on December 16, 2002. If the transfers are authorized by the Council on that date, the County will be able to avoid initiating mothballing of the pools and in-city aquatics will continue to be available in King County.

I look forward to continuing to work together in this final effort to facilitate the continued operation of in-city pools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Sims", written in black ink.

Ron Sims

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: David deCourcy, Chief of Staff

Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Steve Call, Director, Office of Budget

Pam Bissonette, Director, Department of Natural Resources & Parks (DNRP)

Bob Burns, Acting Manager, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP