



SHORELINE
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September 5, 2019

Cheryl Strange, Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services
P.O. Box 45010
Olympia, WA 98504-5010

RE: 1376-67038 City of Shoreline Off-Leash Dog Park Lease - Fircrest

Dear Secretary Strange:

My staff were informed on July 31, 2019, by Jeanne Rodriguez, Capital Assets Manager, and Larry Covey, Fircrest Capital Project Manager, that you have instructed them to not renew the City's lease for the property on Fircrest that has been serving as a park for Shoreline residents in which they can allow their dogs off-leash. The current lease is set to expire on December 31, 2019.

During that same meeting City staff were informed that there would be some operational changes at Fircrest that would affect public access to the park by closing the gates to vehicular access between the hours of 6 pm and 6 am. That change went into effect over the Labor Day weekend.

We are disappointed that this is the stance of DSHS. The public has been great beneficiaries of a partnership between the City and DSHS by providing access to public land that would otherwise be vacant and not accessible to those in the Shoreline community. This partnership has existed for six years and until recently the opportunity has seemed to be a benefit for our agencies and more importantly the tax payers of the communities that we serve.

We are fully aware that the City is the tenant of the property in this case and that as the land owner DSHS can deny a lease extension. Even though that is the case, I would request that this decision be reconsidered.

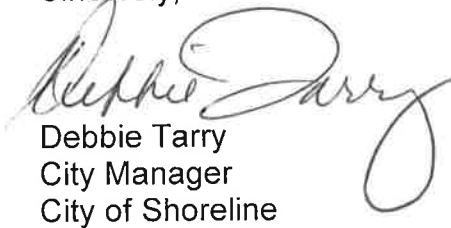
I am well aware that DSHS is in the midst of updating the Master Plan for the Fircrest Campus and that there are a variety of interests of how

the property may develop in the future. Given that submitting a Master Plan Development permit application is only the first step of a likely multi-year process to conduct further planning, environmental review, and design it appears likely that the property will remain vacant for the foreseeable future. It is unfortunate, that if the property is to remain vacant, that public access to the property for park and off-leash dog use will be prohibited. In this case it seems that it is our mutual tax payers who loose.

We will continue to work collaboratively with DSHS to address issues to preserve a safe and accessible area for not only the park patrons, but for the DSHS staff that access the area. I would respectfully request that you reconsider the current stance on not renewing the lease and limiting the public access to this area. I'm sure that we can find a mutually beneficial solution.

You may contact me at 206-801-2211, or DSHS staff can contact our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, Eric Friedli at 206-801-2601.

Sincerely,



Debbie Tarry
City Manager
City of Shoreline

CC: Shoreline City Council
32nd District Legislators
Jeanne Rodriguez, Capital Assets Manager, DSHS
Larry Covey, Capital Project Manager, DSHS
Eric Friedli, Shoreline Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director