

From: t f
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:44 PM
To: t f; Tom Kim F; City Council; Stacie Pratschner
Subject: H Street Road Annexation

Dear Blaine City Council.

I am writing in opposition to the Proposed Annexation of 4455 H Street, Blaine, WA.

There are a number of questions that I have.

With regards to the possibility of multiple residences, estimated to be between 14 and 19 residences, will the proposed Lot sizes of any proposed annexations, be complimentary of the existing neighborhood? Most lots in the Harbor View Heights neighborhood are in excess of 10,000 sq ft.

Has the applicant followed all County regulations regarding Land Disturbance, as many trees have been cut down and chipped up? Are appropriate permits on file to legitimize the removal of these trees? I am witness that he has not, and that no permits appear to be on file.

In regards to Balanced Annexations, it appears that significant residential annexations have taken place, without a balance of commercial or industrial properties. What has the City done to ensure that recent annexations are balanced as stated in the application, Section 3, C?

But there lies a greater set of questions that I would like to see answered and remedied by the City of Blaine.

In the Annexation report for this proposal, dated 1/25/21, there are a number of items that are questionable, in relation to said annexation proposal.

On page 2, in the Background section.

Annexations: Definitions and Authorizing Legislation

*Annexation is the procedure for bringing unincorporated areas of a county into an adjacent incorporated city. Subsequent to an area being annexed, the city becomes the **primary** provider to that area for local government services.*

On page 22, Section 6.

Unless the county agrees to retain a specific road in County Jurisdiction, the City will annex the entire right of way of county roads adjacent to an annexation boundary and will assume full maintenance responsibility for those roads... It may also be desirable to include in an annexation adjacent road sections to avoid dead-end segments or portions of roads that meander in and out of jurisdictions.

In this section, and which is not considered in the proposed annexation, is the question of Harborview Dr.

Will the proposed annexation be serviced Via H. Street? Will it be serviced via Cedarwood Lane? Or, will it be serviced via Harbor View Drive?

If this property is being serviced via H. Street, then there why would the city plan on annexing the property at 2221 Cedarwood Lane?

If the property is to be serviced via Cedarwood Lane, what does the city plan on doing with the property at 2221 Cedarwood Lane?

If the property is to be serviced via Harbor View Dr, then does the city plan on maintaining the road per Section 6 on page 22?

For the sake of conversation, let's assume that the county plans on servicing the property via Harborview Dr. In that case, when did the county hold a public hearing on the increased traffic that this proposed annexation? There has been no county public hearing for the increased traffic.

If the county is servicing the property via the road, then the city is relinquishing being the primary provider.

For the sake of conversation, If the County plans on servicing the road, then an undue burden will be placed on the neighborhood serviced by Harbor View Dr., specifically, the 11 residences that are currently serviced by Harbor View Dr. Please note that Whatcom County has **NOT** historically plowed Harborview Dr. during the winter as it is not a main arterial. Furthermore, Whatcom County has **NOT** historically serviced Crest Dr, nor Terrace Ave. Please note that every winter, multiple vehicles are stranded at the bottom of the hill of Harbor View Dr, blocking the roadway.

Furthermore, the estimated 14 - 19 possible residences would create an 127% to 172% increase in traffic on Harbor View Dr. That being said, the proposed annexation creates a safety hazard for those currently serviced by Harbor View Dr., especially in the winter months.

The impact of this proposed annexation to the existing neighborhood is in conflict with general terms as related to preservation of neighborhoods with regards to Section 3, D., ii, on page 18. It may be argued that the preservation of neighborhoods is only relating to boundaries, however, the City of Blaine has an obligation to maintain the safety of those who are affected by their decisions.

Furthermore, if the City of Blaine, intends to accept full maintenance responsibility of Harbor View Dr, especially in winter months, then Section 6, A. then comes into play and the City must annex the entire right-of-way of the County Road. If it is the intent that the City of Blaine intends on fully servicing this proposed annexation, via Harborview Dr., and is required to annex the entire road, then the applicant has not met the "Sixty Percent Petition" threshold, as there are a minimum of 11 residences, not including vacant properties serviced by this road, which would be affected by this annexation. Therefore, based on this, the application must be denied.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the neighbors who have peacefully lived in this community for many years.

Respectfully,

Thomas Frey
9670 Harbor Ct, Blaine, WA 98230.