October 25, 2017

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We are writing you to ask for assistance in dealing with a very difficult situation impacting properties bordering the Surrey Downs Park. Of the 25 homes surrounding the Surrey Downs Park, 18 homes have been notified of impending property line issues with the Bellevue Parks Department.

The homes were built between 1959 and 1967. The Bellevue School District built the fence when the Surrey Downs Elementary school opened around 1961. These homes were built, landscaped, concrete patios laid, built-in planters, irrigation systems and treehouses with the Park perimeter fence representing the property line between the Surrey Downs Elementary School and the neighboring homes of Surrey Downs. The current fence along the represented property line has been in place for over fifty years. Some of these homes have been sold to new owners (some multiple times), all with the expectation that the established fence line was on the property line. Over the past 50 years, neighbors, at their own expense, have built solid wood privacy fences, laid irrigation and landscaped their property abutting the perimeter fence.

As part of the Proposition 1 City of Bellevue Parks and Natural Areas Levy, Bellevue residents elected to rebuild the Surrey Downs Park and upgrade the park elements. As part of the Surrey Downs Park rebuild, the City identified the need to provide an upgraded perimeter fence between neighboring backyards and the Surrey Downs Park. The City of Bellevue now wishes to place the new fence within 6” of the property line according to (reference survey). This action would reduce the lot size of some park neighbor’s lots by six inches in some cases, but up to fourteen feet in others. As mentioned above, it would also require destroying or relocating some property owners’ landscaping, privacy fencing, concrete patios and planters.

Collectively, the neighbors would like the City Council’s assistance in requesting the City of Bellevue to adjust the property lines and to allow the park perimeter to remain in the currently established location. We believe that this is the most fair, the least expensive, and the most expeditious way to get the fence replaced prior to the Park construction in early 2018.

The Surrey Downs neighborhood has been greatly impacted by the construction and development of the Link Light Rail by Sound Transit. We have lost two of our five entrances to the neighborhood, Sound Transit has purchased and will tear down 18 homes, and we have only begun what will be 6-8 years of extensive construction dust and noise. As the City of Bellevue receives no advantage by taking back property currently in use by these homeowners, the City’s consideration of an adjustment would go a long way in reestablishing good will with a classic Bellevue neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Address:

Name:

Email: