



SAMPLE LETTER TO KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL FOR JUNE 20th

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citycouncil@kirklandwa.gov

Thank you for taking the time to send Kirkland City Council Members your thoughts!

Dear Mayor Sweet, Deputy Mayor Arnold and City Council Members,

My name is *[your name]* and my address is *[insert your Kirkland or other address. For Kirkland residents - feel free to note how long you have lived in Kirkland, where you have moved to Kirkland from or what brought you to Kirkland or what attracts you to Kirkland].*

[insert your tie to aquatics or passion for a new public aquatic and recreation facility. Tell your story. It is important for the council to hear heartfelt and personal stories.]

[you may use the statements below in your letter, but we highly encourage you to customize them to fit your point of view and include the points that are most important to you. The council wants to hear from 'you'.]

52 years! It has been far too long that our community has been without a new public aquatic and recreation facility. Kirkland's population has grown nearly six times since 1971 when the Juanita Aquatic Center was built. We must better serve our community's aquatic needs especially in a region surrounded by water. We continue to miss health and wellness opportunities for our diverse youth, active adults, and seniors year after year putting our community at risk around our waters and in mental health. Many are without affordable access to aquatics programming, including Learn to Swim, and our schools have long been underserved without an adequate training and competition indoor aquatics facility. The pandemic has only made access and our community's safety around water magnified with facilities closing and short staffed.

With a potential Parks ballot measure that includes a new aquatic and recreation center being considered, I strongly encourage you to support putting the ballot measure on this November's ballot. *[as a parent, student, active adult, parks supporter, etc. say why you support going this November, e.g. the time is now, we've waited since 2010 when the need for new public pools was identified, there is never a perfect time, the community has spoken in support through the PROS Plan (Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan), our community needs safe including places to build community and support healthy lifestyles and provide essential life skills, etc.; the estimated drop in assessed home value does not change the average cost to the home owner; we need to capitalize on the momentum; families need this public option right in Kirkland that will support many affordable programming options over expensive private camps and programs outside of the city]*

Let's capitalize on the great momentum that has been built by the collective efforts of the City through the recent PROS plan, the PFEC, the aquatic and recreation feasibility study, the King County Parks Aquatic Facilities Grant Program, and SPLASHForward and their supporters like me.

Please enable the City to **take the next step** to design a new public aquatic and recreation center as recommended by the Park Funding and Exploratory Committee and the City staff at Houghton Park and Ride site. *[Add a personal statement around you, your family, or friends of what it would mean to have such an oasis as a part of your lives. How would it enhance your life and build connections.]*

SPLASHForward is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity and our tax id is 83-2629157

Let's give Kirkland residents the long awaited and much needed new aquatic and recreation center that will provide essential life skills, provide family recreation, attract and retain our diverse and growing community and provide health and wellness opportunities for generations to come.

With respect,

[Your name]

#StrongerTogether

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