

Mayor
Jeff R. Johnson

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Councilmembers
Tom French
Phillippa M. Kassover
Mark Phillips
E. John Resha III
Semra Riddle
Catherine Stanford
John A. E. Wright

May 29, 2018

Re: Veto Message – Ordinance 1174

Dear City Council:

On May 24, 2018, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1174, amending Section 18.54.042 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code relating to Conservation Cluster Housing (CCH). The Ordinance was presented to me for signature in accordance with RCW 35A.12.130, but I am vetoing the Ordinance, pursuant to the authority granted to me as Mayor by RCW 35A.12.100 and 35A.12.130. My objections to the Ordinance are provided below, and describe the reasons for my veto.

As Mayor, I am extremely discouraged and disappointed by the manner in which this Ordinance was passed. Our City is under major pressure with two state highways, Sound Transit 3, housing issues, and opioid drugs all assaulting our character, environment, and quality of life. As Mayor, in partnership with the City Council, it is our duty to protect the quality of our city and interests of our citizens.

We must take time to assess all changes being brought forward. The City of Lake Forest Park is a wonderful place to live, and we must take care of it. I understand all sides of the housing issue, and we only have one chance to do it right.

I am, therefore, asking that the City Council take time to do the right thing and adhere to its stated goals, as identified during discussions of Conservation Cluster Housing and the associated moratorium, and listed below:

- Housing product being submitted and proposed pursuant to Lake Forest Park Municipal Code 18.54.042 does not meet the intent and outcome desired when the City Council adopted conservation cluster housing development regulations in January 2017;
- Allow the time necessary to fully assess the proper implementation of such a regulation within the City to include a housing study of existing inventory, affordability, and product type;
- Assess how the CCH ordinance is affecting the character of Lake Forest Park;
- Evaluate whether the CCH ordinance is adding additional protections for the environment of Lake Forest Park beyond the Critical Areas Ordinance;
- Allow for a more open and transparent planning process.

For these reasons, it is my belief that it is in the best interest of the public that I veto Ordinance 1174.

Sincerely,



Jeff Johnson
Mayor, City of Lake Forest Park