

Subject: FW: 2008-287, Point Roberts curbside recycling exemption

Date: ~~Tuesday, September 9, 2008 7:40 AM~~

From: Shannon Tomsen <shannon@uird.com>

To: Shannon Tomsen shannon@uird.com

----- Forwarded Message

From: Sam Crawford <campfam@comcast.net>

Date: (Fri, 22 Aug 2008) 12:39:49 -0700

To: Shannon Tomsen <shannon@uird.com>

Cc: Council Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Dana Johnson <DanaJohnson@mtbaker.net>, Ward Nelson <LordWard@aol.com>, Barbara Brenner <BBGUN1010@aol.com>, Weimer Carl <carlweimer@comcast.net>, Bob Kelly <RKelly@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Seth Fleetwood <SFleetwo@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Laurie Caskey-Schreiber <LCaskeyS@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Jon Hutchings <JHutchin@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Frank Abart <fabart@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Pete Kremen <pkremen@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Dewey Desler <ddesler@co.whatcom.wa.us>, dgibson@co.whatcom.wa.us

Subject: Re: 2008-287, Point Roberts curbside recycling exemption

Ms. Tomsen,

You can find information about making a Public Records request here: <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/publicrecords/> An email to me is NOT "an official request for public information".

I don't know what "records" you'd be wanting to find. I simply made a proposal to change how recycling is handled in Point Roberts. I have never discussed this issue personally with PRR. After proposing the ordinance at a Council meeting, I did leave a message one day with PRR to call me, and they returned the call by leaving a message to call back, but I never followed up on it. I was thinking they might have some questions about my proposal.

I'll try to answer your most recent questions here. I have been reluctant to respond, because your previous questions have been similarly conveying suspicion and implied mistrust, and I'm not here to try to convince you of anything. When people approach me with even subtle tones of implying something less than full integrity on my part, I tend not to be very responsive, just my nature I guess. From my point of view, the County will continue to try to work on behalf of all the citizens. Those who want to put those efforts consistently in a negative light will likely, quite frankly, receive less responsiveness. Just my "two cents" there.

Also, keep in mind that the Council has discussed some of these matters from a legal perspective in "executive session" with our attorneys. There are legal aspects to this matter that are inappropriate to discuss publicly at this time.

With all that, here's my responses to your specific questions:

-Point Roberts is in District 3, you represent District 2. Since council members no longer serve "at large" why did you draft this proposal on behalf of one Point Roberts business (Point Recycling and Refuse (PRR))?

Didn't. PRR is not the issue for me. Practicality of curbside-pickup recycling at Point Roberts struck me as odd as we received lots of input from folks up there. If PRR gave us any input on this, it was probably a long time ago, and I don't recall any specifics. And contrary to what you might think, neither I nor other Councilmembers fail to address issues in all parts of the

Exhibit 3
Page 1 of 3

County, not just the districts where we live.

-Did you consult with any other council members before or after making this proposal? If so, who and when?

Nope. One concern that did catch my attention is the "threat" by PRR (sent to us via email by concerned residents) that somehow garbage service at Point Roberts could be discontinued. I inquired with our Public Works department, who told me that if PRR either quits or terminates, another hauler could be geared up immediately to provide service. So I think PRR's "threat" is inappropriate, inaccurate and unprofessional. But no, haven't discussed this with other Councilmembers.

-Which of your constituents asked you to draft this proposal?

None.

-What hard evidence do you have to support your position and proposal?

What I view as a common sense solution to recycling in a relatively small-scale recycling market. I realize that the term "common sense" is subjective, and we will all define that differently. Council review and debate, with community input, is not always in the black and white world of "hard evidence".

-Is it true that you asked that this proposal be fast-tracked? If so, why?

I have no idea what that means. I proposed an ordinance, what I see as a fix to an apparent problem. Perhaps you are implying that something underhanded is occurring. That is not the case.

-PRR has been out of compliance on this mandated service for over seven months. The County has asked the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to pull PRR's certificate. Why did you interfere with this process?

"Interfere"?

-Did you talk to residents of Point Roberts on both sides of this issue before agreeing to this proposal? If so, who and when?

Didn't talk to anyone.

-Why did you not attend the community meeting here on August 13?

1. Wasn't invited. 2. I think it was organized by PRR. I'm not that excited about engaging with them. I'm still not sure what the point of the meeting was. As I understand it, the WUTC is charged with administering utility provision around the state, and ensuring those utilities comply not only with state law, but with local laws. How that ends up becoming the topic of a "community meeting" in which I should play a role, is a connection I haven't made. My trash hauler, SSC, doesn't call "community meetings" to my knowledge. Not sure why they would.

Exhibit 3

Page 2 of 3

Far as I know, if PRR can't do the job, the WUTC will find someone who can.

-Why are you discriminating against Point Roberts residents by excluding only Point Roberts from this mandated service?

"Discriminating against"? I guess discrimination is in the eye of those who feel "discriminated against", at least in this case. I'm sorry you feel that way. See my "common sense" answer above.

-How exactly are the residents of Point Roberts served by this proposal? (Please do not include any of the threats posed by PRR.)

As I see it, you (or at least your weekender neighbors) wouldn't have to worry about recycling bins sitting on the street for days, particularly weekenders who find that method of recycling impractical.

-Since the hauler has been non-complaint and your proposal rewards him for his bad behavior, what message does that send to other businesses in Point Roberts and their compliance with Whatcom County Code?

Whatever.

-If the County allows the hauler to disregard whatever laws he chooses, how do you counter the prevailing belief that residents of Point Roberts are at risk of losing additional mandatory services or a continued loosening of county regulations in general?

I wouldn't try to counter anyone's beliefs here. We're here to serve to the benefit of the public, not to make impractical regulations.

Ms. Tomsen, I guess I should close by saying again that I'm not trying to convince you of anything. If you feel continuation of mandatory curbside recycling is good for Point Roberts, then please continue to advocate for that. But please let me make it clear, I do not intend to engage in a big debate with you over this. I am responding here because you continue to request me to respond. Please simply provide the information, and your perspective, that you wish to provide, and I can assure you it will be considered as we continue to work as a community to resolve these and other issues.

Sincerely,

Sam Crawford
Whatcom County Councilmemeber

----- End of Forwarded Message