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Subject: Talking Points for public hearing

A number of you have asked me to send you some talking points for the public hearing on the budget tomorrow night supporting the finance committee's decision to make the Mayor's job full time. Read the attached and use whatever you believe is appropriate.

I appreciate each and every one of you for your support. See you tomorrow night at 7.

Thank you :-)
LFC

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"It's in our moments of decision that our destiny is shaped."
...Anthony Robbins

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Talking Points Outlining Why Port Orchard Needs a Full-Time Mayor

It's more than a full-time job.

The Mayor is basically the City Administrator and manages the day-to-day operations of the City. This is primarily an administrative job — not a political one. Among these duties are all business and personnel decisions. These include: hiring and firing; overseeing the City Clerk's office, the Planning Department, Public Works, Engineering, Human Resources, Finance and Police Departments, as well as the City Court system; coordinating preparation of the initial annual budget for review by the Finance Committee and later the full City Council; negotiating for, and purchasing products and services the City needs and uses within the established budget; negotiating and signing contracts for city projects up to specific spending limits; making sure the City is in compliance with all state and federal laws; meeting with other electeds on issues of mutual concern; lobbying state and federal legislators and conveying the City's concerns and needs to them, as well as following up with them; coordinating all the City's tourism and economic development efforts; meeting with people interested in doing business with the City; meeting with people interested in establishing businesses in the City, which includes representatives for major retailers, manufacturers, information technology companies and all other types of businesses; researching and making appointments to all of the various City boards and commissions (Civil Service Commission, Planning Commission, Public Facilities District, etc.); being the public spokesperson for, and "face" of the City; and representing the City at public functions. But perhaps the biggest job is being the person responsible for addressing and personally responding to all citizen concerns, which runs the entire gamut from getting potholes fixed to dealing with sex offenders.

Currently, the Mayor is scheduled to work 20 hours per week (I currently put in 50-60 hours). We are the only local city without a full time Mayor and the results are apparent everywhere — from the economic condition of downtown, to the reasons we have Indian fishing boats residing at Port Orchard Marina. Previous Mayors not having the time to research appointments, such as the Public Facilities District for example, have cost the City literally millions of dollars in lost opportunities.

We have not had a seat at the table when decisions impacting both the City and South Kitsap in general have been made.

All the other full-time Mayors are always present when and where the money is being handed out, advocating hard for their citizens. This is why Bremerton, Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island have all received the lion's share of county, state and federal funding for their City's projects, while Port Orchard has received little or nothing — except funding for the county jail. Port Orchard has had no one at the table demanding our fair share and advocating for Port Orchard and South Kitsap — until now. But doing so, considering all the other responsibilities, simply requires more than 20 hours a week.

We have relied upon our South Kitsap County Commissioner to look out for our interests when the City should be pro-active.

The Tremont Street Gateway, Bay Street repaving, and Bethel Road projects are all prime examples. All of the funding originally allocated for Bethel was diverted to Central Kitsap road projects, such as the new Clear Creek Rd interchange and the proposed connector road now under consideration. Meanwhile, South Kitsap residents are being asked to tax themselves to pay for Bethel. Why? Because our current County Commissioner has been outvoted along partisan political lines for years, allowing what should have been rightfully ours, to be diverted to Central Kitsap as punishment for her political affiliation.

Who is representing the citizens of Port Orchard who use Bethel on a daily basis? No one. A full-time Mayor would have added a strong voice and help marshal citizen support for Bethel instead of allowing funding that is rightfully ours to be spent elsewhere. I am leading the charge for annexation of the Bethel corridor, and have met with the county commissioners individually to lobby them on excluding this area from the revenue sharing agreement so we can use that money to fund the infrastructure development that needs to occur there. It appears they will agree and the South Kitsap commissioner has agreed to bring this forward for a vote.

The Bay Street repaving almost didn't happen and Tremont is years behind schedule with costs increasing every day and no secured full funding source yet in sight. The other commitments and demands required of a part-time Mayor prevent having the time necessary to devote to these kinds of issues and projects. We get what we work for, but if no one is there to work for us, we get what we've traditionally gotten — nothing.

It's impossible to do this job right, and hold another job.

Because the time commitments are so vast and the scheduling of them coordinated with other elected officials and public agencies, it is almost impossible for anyone elected to this job to be anything but retired, independently wealthy, or have no financial need for any other employment. Imagine going to your present employer and saying, "I need 6 hours off next Tuesday to attend four board meetings, and another five hours off on Thursday to go over to Seattle for PSRC. I'll also need an hour off on Wednesday for my department head meeting, and two hours for meeting with some people who want to invest in downtown. Oh, yeah, I also have a lunch meeting with one of our County Commissioners on Monday I'll need time off for." If you were to do this on an ongoing basis, how long do you think you'd have that job?

It's impossible to do this job part-time and move the City forward.

There are a lot of challenges facing our city — as well as a lot of opportunities. Because I have done the Mayor's job full-time for the past year, Port Orchard is now positioned for well-planned future growth — growth that is inevitable, whether we want it or not. How we plan for it is the key because we will live with the results for generations. We only have one opportunity to do it right. Bringing our Comprehensive Plan in compliance with state law was the first

step. Master planning the transportation and zoning elements of the Sedgwick-Sidney-Pottery corridor area is the next step. The last thing we want it to become is another Silverdale.

The annexations of McCormick Woods and the Bethel corridor will bring our City a new perspective. We are currently processing applications for annexation along Sedgwick Road that includes Fred Meyer and a number of other retail businesses. This is a rich source of new sales tax revenue for the City. We have over 30 annexation requests for the remainder of the Bethel corridor in hand. When we are finished, we will have all of the Bethel corridor retail areas as part of our City, and they will generate the revenue to do the needed capital improvements our citizens demand and deserve. But it will take a full-time administrator to oversee these projects. It simply won't get done — or done right — with a part-time Mayor trying to juggle all of this as well as the other demands of the job, working 20 hours a week.

Arguments Against Making The Change To a Full-Time Mayor

The current Mayor should have researched this before deciding to run for office.

That is a valid argument — to a point. Due diligence was performed prior to running for election, which included discussing the job with a former mayor and meeting with incumbent and past city council members. Researching the City Code outlining the Mayor's responsibilities did not reveal the required time commitments not outlined under the City Code. These include serving on the boards of numerous public agency organizations, where the Mayor is required to serve as a board member in their bylaws, or as a result of Interlocal Agreements, and/or state statute — but not under City Code. These include the Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority (KCCHA — of which the current Mayor is Vice Chair); Kitsap Transit; CenCom; Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management (DEM); Kitsap County Health District; Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA — of which the current Mayor is also a member of the Executive Committee and chair of the Buy-Local committee); Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC), and Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). The Mayor additionally serves on sub-committees of these organizations as well as being an ex-officio member of the Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce board.

If the Mayor simply attended all of the required board meetings of all these organizations — and never set foot inside of City Hall — over the course of a month it would much more than fill up the 20 hours a week the mayor is allotted. Due diligence — including reading the City Code, did not turn up the fact these public agency time commitments are required. It also did not turn up the fact the City was out of compliance with the state's Growth Management Act (GMA), cutting off numerous grant funding opportunities. Returning the City to compliance with the GMA has taken all of the first year, and at 20 hours a week, it would have taken much longer.

My original expectation based on due diligence, was that this was a 30-32 hour a week job, which would allow time for me to continue working in my

business and draw a paycheck from it. I had no way to know about all the Interlocal Agreements and public agency commitments, or the status of the Comprehensive Plan.

Any change like this should be put to a vote of the people.

This is a red herring. Because Port Orchard is not a Code City, but what's classified as a Second-Class City under state law, the authority for this decision is vested in the City Council, not the voters. The City Council has the power to make this change — and to rescind it if the Mayor doesn't perform up to its expectations.

If this change were voted upon by the citizens and codified into law, it could not be changed without another vote of the people as well. The cost to the taxpayers of putting this to a vote — even when run in conjunction with a regularly scheduled election — is a minimum of about \$20,000. That's money the City can better spend on other things — like parks, public safety, and capital improvements.

If it's put to a vote and codified into law, we also run the risk of electing a better politician than administrator, and not being able to change the situation in any way, or have the City Council be able to take control to minimize any damage, should it become necessary. Not codifying this by election also provides the Council with maximum flexibility where future City budgets are concerned.

The financial realities of this decision

The Mayor's position will pay a little over \$19,000 a year in 2009. What is being requested is a little over \$62,000 — a salary equal to the Mayor of Poulsbo, which is a smaller City in terms of both population and physical size. The difference between the current part-time salary and the proposed full-time salary, approximately \$40,000, will NOT come from the City's 2009 budget. \$20,000 of the proposed increase will come from \$32,000 of the City's Hotel/Motel tax allocation originally earmarked to help fund a tourism coordinator. In putting together the 2009 budget, the Finance Committee came to the realization that it would not be able to make up the required difference to fully fund this position in the 2009 budget. Since the current Mayor already does most of this work anyway, that is a legally viable source for that money, and it will fund approximately 6 months of the additional pay. The balance will come from sales tax revenue generated by Fred Meyer, which in a worse-case scenario the City will begin receiving at the end of April. Even with the current revenue-sharing agreement the City has with the County that dictates a sales tax split of 25 percent the first year, 50 percent the second, 75 percent the third and 100 percent the fourth year, there is still more than enough money to fund the proposed increase for the entire year at 25 percent. There is no additional cost to the taxpayers of making this change.

I have worked for a year on a full-time basis (50-60 hours a week) for the current part time salary. I have also been forced to hire people in my business to do what I used to do there, and have not drawn a paycheck from my business in the time I have served as Mayor.

The alternatives to not making this a full-time position

I must scale back my schedule to the allotted 20 hours per week and go back to work full-time in my business. This will basically leave Port Orchard in the same, “empty seat at the table” position it has traditionally had in regards to all other government functions and interactions. The City Council members can begin attending some of these numerous meetings, but they will have no statutory authority to represent, or vote on behalf of, the City. That is the Mayor’s job. In the past, the part-time Mayors have simply not fulfilled these responsibilities, and Port Orchard has suffered for it. There will be precious little time for working on economic development and tourism, as management of the City’s internal functions will quickly fill up the time allotted. Port Orchard will begin to go backwards economically in a rather short period.

And for those who may believe this is a self-serving position to take, answer this: If your employer were to say to you, “For the next three years, I need you to work more than the full-time hours you already put in every week, including nights, weekend and holidays, but I will only compensate you for 20 hours a week,” what would your response be?

The bottom line: The world is run by the people who show up. If the City is going to accomplish its goals and prosper in the future — especially considering the economic challenges the state is facing — a strong voice at all county, state, and federal levels is required. Being that voice is the Mayor’s job. The Finance Committee recognized this, and agreed to make this a full-time position in 2009 because it understands Port Orchard needs to step up to reality to take our rightful seat at the table — just as almost every other City our size has. By not doing so, Port Orchard will ultimately lose out to the other cities and things will simply remain stagnant — just as they’ve been for the past 30+ years. We deserve better.