

After 30 years of investing myself in our community, it is with a heavy heart that I resign my position on the Sammamish City Council, effective June 15th, 2022. I have worked to represent this area on the State Boundary Review Board, as a commissioner on the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District, on the City Planning Board, Parks Board and many different LWSD Boards and Committees as a Board Member of Kiwanis and Eastside Friends of Seniors. The extent and duration of this investment makes the necessity to write this letter very difficult to accept.

Sadly, however, the vision that King County and the current Council majority have for our future is not one that I can be party to. I have fought for decades for concurrency in infrastructure. Not making development impossible but planning to ensure that services are in place BEFORE all the new residents appear.

Below is a list of a few items that have been undone, in just the few weeks since our newest Council person, Pam Stuart, was appointed by King County

1. They have dropped the “Gerend” appeal, which was an appeal against a decision from the Growth Hearings Board which is very detrimental to Sammamish. The time and money have already been spent on this important matter. There would be little chance of us getting much worse than what we already have, but the benefit could be great. Their motivation is unclear, but the job is to put the city first. It is about local control.
2. The new majority have negated the Volume over Capacity methodology to measure the performance of our roadways, and instead have voted to allow our roads to fail these criteria. They have taken us back to the dark ages of “look but don’t tell” where we cannot measure roads without intersections (Eastlake Sammamish Parkway, 244th), or backups of cars past the turning queues in an intersection. The roads in question are major egress roads that we need not only for our transportation system but to support emergency services.
3. This new majority REVOKED the BLUMA EIS, which was put in place with the benefit of a formal process including public hearings and Council resolutions. It was thrown out without any notice to the public at all. This important and expensive study tells us the current land, traffic and environmental conditions and the effect that allocated growth, such as Town Center and other future growth allocation, will have on them, and provides options for dealing with those findings. To revoke this EIS and ignore this information, in an area that contains a deep-water aquifer, 2 CARA’s (Critical Aquifer Recharge Area’s, yes, speaking as your past Water Commissioner), headwaters to salmon bearing creek, and 2000+ units planned for Town Center is criminal. To do it without at least as much public input as taken to put in place, is an insult to the citizens of Sammamish.
4. Finally, last night, thank goodness, the council kept School Concurrency in our ordinances. Unfortunately, it was NOT without the new council majority gutting it first, by removing my proposed reference to each district’s own Level of Service Table, meaning the districts are not accountable for their own levels of service.

Residents will need to stay on top of this, as Councilmember Stuart was eager to make sure this would NOT come back in the form of a hearing but rather just on a consent calendar item. "PUBLIC BEWARE" this appears to be the new norm in town.

These are just a few of the lowlights of the new order. It saddens me deeply, and is against everything I have worked for and have believed in since filing the letter of Intent to Incorporate our beautiful city. I truly wish the city and the staff (we have the best) the very best. I am becoming of the belief that a strong mayor may be the responsible way to go. We appear to throw away city managers like underwear (and pay deeply), and we need someone that residents can hold responsible for running the city publicly. Please hold your elected officials to what they wrote in their election pieces. I have not seen much of that this year.

Former Mayor & Councilmember of City of Sammamish
Karen Moran