

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 5 UPDATE

Winter, 2007



Barbara Gelman
Councilmember

Committee & Board Assignments

Chair

Public Safety & Human Services Committee

Member

Performance Audit Committee

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Board

Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County Executive Board

Domestic Violence Commission

Crystal Judson Family Justice Center Executive Board

RSN Governing Board

Elections Canvassing Board

Dear Neighbor,

January marked the beginning of my second term of office. Although I was unopposed in the last election, I want to thank all of you who have supported me over the years. I am privileged and honored to serve you.

As I look forward to these next four years, I will continue to focus on those issues that are so important to all of us, such as:

- ❖ Continued full-funding of the Neighborhood Patrol Deputy Program
- ❖ Continued funding of traffic calming projects
- ❖ Renovation of Sprinker Recreation Center and the future addition of a 2nd sheet of ice
- ❖ Exploration of community interest in a Leisure /Aquatic Center in the Parkland / Spanaway area
- ❖ Identify locations for a new park in District 5
- ❖ Continue to monitor the provision of mental health services in Pierce County

Building on the improvements to Pacific Avenue, this Spring we will apply for a grant to complete design engineering of streetscape improvements in the Garfield Street Activity Center. We will also work with the business community to identify options for building façade improvements that will further enhance the unique character of this historic district in Pierce County.

At the same time, I will be working closely with the Midland community as they formalize a Midland Business Association. We will be looking at a plan for street improvements to Portland Avenue that will improve community access and spark economic revitalization.

As you can see, there is still much to do. I am pleased to be able to work together with you to improve our community.

Thank you again for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Gelman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DISTRICT 5 UPDATE



Traffic Calming

One component of the traffic calming pilot project funded in 2006 was the installation of electronic speed feedback signs. Two sets of signs were installed in two locations of Parkland where excessive speeding through residential neighborhoods was documented.

These signs were fabricated using a built-in radar system to display “Your Speed” to approaching drivers. If the speeds are excessive, a “Slow Down” message appears as the speed limit flashes. Early findings were very positive that these signs were effective at slowing traffic.

Unfortunately, operational problems with the solar-powered system have developed. Our Public Works Division is working closely

with the manufacturer who has promised a fix! Further study of their effectiveness will occur and no additional signs will be purchased until the pilot study signs are performing as promised.

In contrast, the speed “hump” installation in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood of the North Clover Creek Collins Community was an outstanding success, slowing speeds and reducing cut-through traffic. Money has been set aside this year for one additional speed hump project. My office will work closely with Public Works to identify a location in the Midland community that would benefit from a speed hump installation.

Pacific Avenue

Hats off to WSDOT and Scarsella Brothers, Inc., project contractor, for their work on the Pacific Avenue Safety Improvement Project. Although the recent harsh winter weather has slowed progress somewhat, we still expect project completion by mid-April.

What a difference these improvements have made to our community! Soon, the pedestrian light standards will be installed and the trees will be in bloom on a safer, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly Pacific Avenue.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be planned on project completion.

DISTRICT 5 UPDATE



Many of you have contacted my office with complaints about illegal signs around the County...on trees, on utility poles, along our roads and streets.

These signs are a blight on our community. They are also illegal.

Unfortunately, the County has not had the resources to police and remove these illegal signs, and there are complicated procedures that must be followed when seizing personal property (signage).

However, enough is enough! The County Council has set aside money this year for the development of a pilot program to remove or reduce the number of illegal, un-permitted signs in the public right-of-way, or on utility poles.

Public Works and Planning & Land Services will work together to develop this program including enforcement options and recommendations for long-term funding. This may include additional fines or civil infractions.

This proposed plan is expected to the Council in April of this year. More to come....

Dawson Park Play Equipment



Last summer, an observant parent reported on the unsafe condition of playground equipment at the Dawson Neighborhood Park located on the corner of Portland Avenue and 90th Street. County staff confirmed that the equipment was potentially dangerous, and it was immediately removed. Unfortunately, this left a huge void for the families and children in Midland.

After learning of this loss in the Fall of 2006, I was able to reassign funds budgeted in 2006 for a District 5 project that had been delayed. With the hard work of Parks & Recreation Division staff, we were able to purchase new equipment before the end of the year, realizing a considerable cost savings.

Good news! New playground equipment, as illustrated above, was delivered on December 22, 2006. Watch for news of a community celebration when the equipment is installed this Spring!

PRESORTED STANDARD
U S POSTAGE PAID
TACOMA WA
PERMIT NO 820

Office of the County Council
C/o Barbara Gelman
930 Tacoma Ave South, Room #1046
Tacoma, WA 98402



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Pierce County Council – District #5

We can help...

My office can be a great resource if you need help dealing with a county agency. Let us know what the problem is and we will do all we can to cut through the red tape.

Stay Connected...

Get Email updates. Visit the Council's website and click on "IPL-Meeting Notification" to sign up for Email notices on upcoming County Council meetings and legislation.

Office Information

930 Tacoma Ave South, Room #1046
Tacoma, WA 98402
Telephone: (253) 798-6653
Fax: (253) 798-7509
Email: Bgelman@co.pierce.wa.us
Website: www.co.pierce.wa.us/council

Councilmember Assistant

Susan Matthew

Telephone: (253) 798-6653

Email: Smatthe@co.pierce.wa.us

Public Meeting Information

The Council's regular meetings are Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the 10th floor of the County-City building in Tacoma. Meetings are televised live and replayed throughout the week on Channel 22 (Comcast), Channel 78 (Rainier Connect), and Channel 86 (Click!).