

Press Release

Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Olympic View Water & Sewer District

Ronald Wastewater Has No Legal Territory in Snohomish County

Edmonds, Washington, October 29, 2020: On October 15, 2020, the Washington Supreme Court unanimously rejected the claims of Ronald Wastewater District and King County that Ronald has territory and the right to provide sewer services in Point Wells and portions of the Town of Woodway in Snohomish County. The decision affirms a previous unanimous decision of the Washington Court of Appeals to the same effect.

In the trial court and the Court of Appeals, Ronald and King County were joined by the City of Shoreline, supporting Ronald's now rejected claims. The decision results from years of litigation, with large sums of taxpayer/ratepayer money spent on attorney fees in an effort by Shoreline, Ronald and King County to engineer what the Washington Supreme Court termed a "hostile takeover" of portions of the territory of Olympic View Water & Sewer District. Olympic View was joined by Woodway and Snohomish County in resisting the claims.

The case arose from the transfer of the Richmond Beach Sewer District System from King County to Ronald in the mid-1980s. King County served, by contract, a handful of customers in Snohomish County at the time. Pursuant to statutes King County got the Legislature to pass, it transferred its Richmond Beach sewer operations to Ronald pursuant to an agreement approved by the King County Superior Court that also purportedly annexed, to Ronald, large areas in Snohomish County within the boundaries of Olympic View. This was

known as the “Transfer Order”. King County and Ronald did not include Olympic View, Woodway, or Snohomish County in the lawsuit that resulted in the Transfer Order. The Washington Supreme Court ruled the Transfer Order was void and the King County Superior Court had no jurisdiction to enter such an order.

The Board of Commissioners of Olympic View wrote the Shoreline City Council after the decision stating Olympic View desired to move forward and open a new chapter of cooperation to better serve the residents in Shoreline and Southwestern Snohomish County.

The decision of the Washington Supreme Court can be found under the Opinion Section of the Washington Courts website.

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