CITY OF Burlington
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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February 8, 2008

From: Chal Martin, P.E., Public Works Director, City of Burlington

To: Burlington Hill Residents:

RE: Update on Hillcrest Drive Reconstruction

Ladies and Gentlemen.

First, I want to apologize for not providing a letter like this earlier. We kept thinking, "just two more weeks, and we can have this thing buttoned up." Unfortunately, "two weeks" turned into two more weeks, and then into two months, and finally our difficulties with this project have resulted in a temporary shutdown, while we re-group and come up with a new approach.

Last year, Property Investors, LLC and the City of Burlington agreed to work together to repair segments of Hillcrest Drive. A partnership was formed to accomplish the work, with Property Investors, LLC the lead partner. The plan was to first reconstruct the north segment of Hillcrest Drive, which we believed at the time to be the biggest challenge and the most serious problem, then move on to the southeast section. The north segment reconstruction work was completed in April without any significant problems. Work then shifted to the southeast section.

From the beginning, we encountered difficulties. Our ingoing approach, which is still valid, was to move the street into the hillside and ensure the street was resting on bedrock (rather than fill material). Unfortunately, our search for bedrock has proven to be difficult. The rock we expected to find is inconsistent and uneven; finally, it became obvious to us that a re-design was necessary. We are currently working on the re-design, and we expect it will include more involved structural measures such as retaining walls, engineered embankment stabilization, and additional subsurface stabilization.

We believe we can have the new re-engineered design ready for renewed construction start by about the middle of April. Once we get construction underway again, we expect to have the street operational in about 90 days.

Again, please accept my apology for not providing this update to you sooner. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to email me directly at cmartin@ci.burlington.wa.us.

Sincerely,

Chal A. Martin, P.E.
Director/City Engineer

C: Mayor Ed Brunz