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LAKE OSWEGO PURSUES SAFECO PROPERTY

LAKE OSWEGO- City officials in Lake Oswego are pursuing acquisition of the 12.88 acre Safeco property on Kruse Way. The campus is currently offered for sale, and the company has agreed to initiate a dialogue with the City about entering into good faith negotiations. If those negotiations are not successful, the City could seek to acquire it through eminent domain.

“This is a fantastic piece of property in an ideal location and well suited to meet the facility needs of our citizenry,” said Mayor Judie Hammerstad. “We have a wonderful opportunity to acquire this special site for use by generations of Oswegans and the timing is right to proceed.”

Recent citizen surveys and assessments have indicated a public desire for facilities such as a community center, swimming pool, library, a multigenerational center, public meeting rooms, fitness areas, and an indoor track. It is the desire of City Council to undertake a conversation with the community in order to determine the specific facilities that could be possible.

“The Council has not predetermined uses for the site and will first undertake an extensive conversation with the citizens on preferred options and alternatives,” said Mayor Judie Hammerstad.

Both parties—the City and Safeco—have indicated that they would prefer to reach a negotiated purchase. The City has also confirmed in writing, however, that it would use eminent domain if necessary. Following acquisition of the property and public process, City officials will consider placing a bond measure on a future ballot to fund development of the property based on preferences expressed by the community.