Good evening.

My name is CJ Kahler. I live at 21911 SE 20th St, Sammamish.

I am here tonight to recommend to you that as part of the Sammamish Comprehensive Plan 2035 update, the City of Sammamish replace its Human Services Committee with a Human Services Commission composed of 5 Sammamish City resident volunteers for the following reasons:

1.) While the Human Services Committee was adequate when the City was founded in 1999, I think it is time to enhance its function and develop a more comprehensive plan for meeting human needs in our City. As a Commission, it could:
   - Advise the Mayor and Council on general issues related to human services in Sammamish.
   - Make specific funding recommendations on human service needs as part of the City’s biennial budget process in this area while still using the current Human Services Funders Collaborative (HSFC) program or investigate a different approach to address both short term and long term needs.
   - Include strategies that increase the knowledge of and engage the community in addressing human services needs and issues in Sammamish, like strategies to reduce domestic violence or the excessive use of drugs and alcohol by youth. Further human needs in Sammamish that could be addressed might include issues of quality of life; affordable housing, services for older adults, and transportation in Sammamish.

2.) The current Human Services Committee only reviews and funds human needs once every 2 years in spite of the fact those needs in communities may change daily. A Commission could be more responsive to emerging needs.

3.) The formation of a Human Services Commission with a volunteer staff could assist and supplement the limited time that the City Clerk and Councilmembers have to allocate to this process.

4.) Could allow more funds to be expended on the most important needs facing our residents as opposed to making a small sized grant based on a funding formula to most of the applicants who apply.
The process for the 2013-2014 year was that once the application period has closed, all applications were reviewed for completeness by staff and a preliminary recommendation was developed. This preliminary recommendation was then reviewed by the members of the Human Service Committee (Councilmembers John Curley, Don Gerend, and Tom Vance), the City Manager, and City Clerk. The committee recommendations were based on need/outcomes/budget and volunteer opportunities as well as an analytical evaluation based on the percentage of the program spent on Sammamish residents.

Additionally, the decision was made to limit any one request to no more than $10,000 to be consistent with past practices. The total amount recommended was $176,000 for the two year period, which was about a 2% increase each year from the last budget cycle.

References: Human Services Grants 2013-14:

**Redmond Human Services Commission Description (Population of 54,298 as of 2010 census)**

The Human Services Commission is a seven-member volunteer board, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council for four year terms. They advise the Mayor and Council on general issues related to human services, as well as make specific funding recommendations as part of the City's budget process every two years. The Human Services Commission also helps carry out recommendations outlined in the City's Human Services Strategic Plan, including strategies that increase the knowledge of and engage the community in addressing human services needs and issues in Redmond.

**Redmond Human Services Strategic Plan:** The purpose of this strategic planning effort has been to strengthen and better define the role of the City of Redmond in a world of ever-increasing human needs and constrained public resources. The plan lays out a road map for maintaining and strengthening human services needed by Redmond residents. It is not a business or financial plan, but rather a framework for making policy decisions, setting priorities, and most effectively allocating the funds available for human services.

Though the need for additional resources is a constant challenge in the human services arena, the thrust of this document is not to call on the city to immediately or dramatically increase its own investment. Rather the plan emphasizes making best use of existing resources in terms of increasing efficiencies, maximizing opportunities for leverage, and improving outcomes for citizens. Ultimately, it is hoped the plan will result in the increased capacity of all Redmond residents to participate in our community and thrive in our city.

**Bellevue Human Services Commission Description (Population of 122,363 as of 2011)**