

For Immediate Release
February 12, 2021

Contact:
Karen Hogan
Karenlhogan@me.com
360.461.1076

Sequim Good Governance League Welcomes the End of Divisiveness

The decision to dismiss the Save Our Sequim (SOS) LUPA suit against the City and the Tribe brings to a close a divisive issue that has dominated the civic discourse during the past eighteen months in Sequim.

The Sequim Good Governance League believes that the decision validates the integrity of our city staff. They followed the law and regulations, treating the Tribe's proposal for the Healing Clinic as it would any business, as the project moved through permitting processes. The process was transparent. Public notices were posted as required, giving citizens the opportunity for public input along the way.

The Tribe's medication-assisted-treatment (MAT) facility is based on solid medical science, treating Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) as a brain disorder. It is state-of-the-art health care on par with Johns Hopkins Medical Center. That kind of health care normally does not find its way to rural communities.

It is not a dose-and-go methadone clinic.

It is unfortunate that the controversy about the proposed health care facility became so divisive. Vulnerable groups of people were stigmatized. The Tribe was attacked as being greedy and insensitive to the well-being of Sequim. Many forgot that the Tribe's connection to the land we call Sequim goes back 10,000 years and that it stepped in and provided a health care facility when Virginia Mason abandoned its clinic.

It is our neighbors, members of our community, who struggle with drug addiction, housing insecurity, income insecurity, and mental fragility. Those problems are neither new nor unique to Sequim. They are human struggles.

The Sequim Good Governance League believes that good governance is the pathway to solutions for problems faced by a community. Good governance thrives on honesty, integrity, openness, inclusiveness, and accountability, using facts, and ethical behaviors to develop non-partisan solutions that serve and protect all residents of Sequim and the surrounding Sequim-Dungeness Valley.

It is time to put aside the divisiveness. A state-of-the-art medical facility will not ruin Sequim. Divisiveness and stigmatization of others will.

For questions, contact Karen Hogan (sequimgoodgovernanceleague@gmail.com) 360.461.1076