



Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce

4819 Alderson Rd. #103

Birch Bay, WA 98230

360-371-5004

Re: Birch Bay's Porta Potty Issues,

On behalf of the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I am writing to make you aware and request your help with an urgent and ongoing issue in Birch Bay.

The Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce has, for the last number of years, funded and arranged for the porta-potties that are placed throughout Birch Bay during the summer season. These portable units are the only public restroom facilities in Birch Bay with the exception of the permanent units at the beach access at the end of Alderson Road.

The cost of portable toilet rentals went up more than 30% this year with price increases and added delivery charges. Also, due to more activity because of the border reopening and our new shoreline pedestrian walking path our community was in need of seasonal public restrooms earlier than last year.

The summer units were delivered by Baker Septic Monday, May 16th, 2022 to the following locations:

- 7930 Birch Bay Drive - (2 Units an ADA unit and a regular unit) Across from the Birch Bay Beach Park
- 4854 Alderson Road (1 regular unit) - Across from the C Shop
- 8200 Birch Bay Drive (1 regular unit) - North of Cottonwood Beach
- The Beach Access at Jackson Rd. & Birch Bay Drive (1 regular unit)

On May 19th, 2022 the unit at 4854 Alderson Road had been turned over on its side.

On May 26th the two units at 7930 Birch Bay drive had both been intentionally turned over on their sides and the ADA unit was so badly damaged it needed to be removed from the location by Baker Septic for repair.

In addition to the damage to the summer units above, the unit we had at our previous location at 7900 Birch Bay Drive was intentionally turned over and damaged on April 15th and Baker Septic removed this unit. Around this same time, the ADA unit at 7930 Birch Bay Drive that had been funded through the winter by Birch Bay Parks & Recreation District 2 (BBBPRD2) had been filled with garbage and attempted to be lit on fire. BBBPRD2 decided to have this unit removed as well.

On June 2nd, 2022 the Chamber was notified that Baker Septic was able to repair the ADA unit damaged on May 26th, and it could be returned. Baker Septic made it clear that if the unit was damaged again the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce would be responsible for the cost of replacing the unit, a minimum cost of \$1,800. The Board of Directors decided that The Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce could not bear the burden of this liability should the same pattern of vandalism occur.

There is a huge need for public restrooms in Birch Bay. People are out and about enjoying the new berm pathway, and visitors are returning to Birch Bay after two years away due to the pandemic. We are concerned about the impact the upcoming summer season and especially the 4th of July Celebration will have on our bay, and community without adequate essential facilities. The 4th of July is not an event that the Chamber sponsors or sanctions, it's an event in Whatcom County that just happens to our community.



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While we budgeted \$4,000 in Birch Bay Drive Porta-Potty costs this year it is becoming clear that with the increased cost, maintenance, and need, along with the likely potential for damage costs we will far exceed that.

We urgently need your help and support with a short-term solution for this season.

We also need your help and support and collaboration on a long-term solution that will permanently benefit and support tourism and recreation in the Birch Bay community. The current mode of delivering essential public restrooms to our community is not working or sustainable for our organization.

Thank you,

Danielle Gaughen

Executive Director

On Behalf of the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors



Left to Right: The images above show the winter season ADA unit (sponsored by Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Recreation District #2) that had been blown across Birch Bay Drive due to wind and tumbled over within the park. The May 26th turn over of the ADA unit & regular unit that resulted in significant damages to the ADA unit. The final picture is of the unit at Alderson & Birch Bay Drive that was turned over and required additional servicing.