

Hillman Place ROW – 3-Minute Council Address (Sept 17, 2025)

Good morning, Council.

I am here again regarding Hillman Place in Warm Beach. This is a public right-of-way that has been obstructed for over a decade. Two practical steps can make a real difference.

First, remove the concrete pillars. Ten years ago, the County Fire Marshal recommended their removal because they block emergency access. They remain in place today. Acting on that long-standing recommendation would improve safety and restore confidence that emergency access is prioritized.

Second, commission a survey of Hillman Place. Without one, there will always be uncertainty about the ROW's boundaries and its shoreline terminus. A survey is the simplest, most reliable way to resolve questions about access, ADA equity, and shoreline management responsibilities.

These are not extraordinary requests. They are practical, inexpensive steps that protect public safety, clarify responsibilities, and strengthen public trust.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hillman Place ROW – Reference Memo (Sept 17, 2025)

To: Snohomish County Council, Executive Somers, Public Works

From: K'allen Specht

Subject: Hillman Place ROW – Request for Practical Action

Background

Hillman Place is a platted public right-of-way in Warm Beach. Community members have long raised concerns about meaningful public access to this shoreline, but practical issues remain unresolved. Two areas deserve immediate attention.

1. Emergency Access (Concrete Pillars)

A County Traffic Investigation Report in 2015, citing Fire District 14, recommended removal of the concrete pillars at Hillman Place because they obstruct emergency access. Those pillars remain today. Removing them would both reduce County liability and restore confidence that emergency access is prioritized.

2. Clarifying ROW Boundaries (Survey)

There has been continued uncertainty over the precise north, south, and west boundaries of the Hillman Place ROW, and where it terminates at the shoreline. A professional survey is the only definitive way to resolve these questions. This would provide clarity for public use, ADA equity, emergency vehicle access, and shoreline management responsibilities under RCW 90.58.020.

Request

I respectfully request that the County:

1. Remove the concrete pillars at Hillman Place, as originally advised by the Fire Marshal.
2. Commission a survey of the ROW to confirm its boundaries and shoreline terminus.

Conclusion

These steps are practical, inexpensive compared to litigation, and build public trust by resolving uncertainty. The community is not asking for extraordinary measures—only that a Fire Marshal's recommendation be honored and that the County know the boundaries of its own right-of-way.

Respectfully,
K'allen Specht
(509) 423-4620