Safer communities start with stronger laws

Last Friday, I called on the County Council to work with my office to address the county’s adult entertainment regulations.

While a recent proposal to open a strip club in unincorporated Snohomish County near Mukilteo was recently denied, we still need to consider tighter controls and increased opportunity for the public to comment when these clubs are proposed.

This week, I directed staff to begin a thorough review of current code so that we can draft and propose changes.

With concerns about crime, current county code is lax and doesn’t offer enough tools to prevent these businesses from opening near residential neighborhoods or other inappropriate locations.

It also doesn’t go far enough to address public concerns about the impact of these establishments on their neighborhoods.

My commitment to you as County Executive is to continue creating a safe environment and strong quality of life for our community.

If you have any suggestions, please contact me at county.executive@snoco.org.

Sincerely,

Reardon tells leaders region must compete for businesses

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How are we doing?

Did you know

How are we doing?

Did you know
Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon opened this week’s 2011 Economic Symposium, telling local business and government leaders that the region must adapt to continuing economic changes in order to create new jobs.

“We have to act in a different way than we acted before, we have to be entrepreneurial,” he said. “Other states are calling upon our businesses to recruit them to their states, offering land and tax incentives. We have to be business recruiters ourselves.”

Reardon said it’s no longer possible to consider any business a birthright.

“We are in an economy that is hypercompetitive at an international level,” he said. “Unless we understand, we will not create new jobs.”

He continued, “We cannot wait for businesses to knock on our door. We have to actively recruit and build business relationships. If we in government do not focus on creating jobs and opportunity and being partners with our businesses and our investor, we are sunk. It’s that simple.”

To read a news account of the symposium, click here.

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**Commission rejects allegations Reardon hid travel costs**

On Thursday, the Public Disclosure Commission dismissed all allegations that Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon deliberately concealed the source of payment for his participation in trade missions on behalf of...
Snohomish County.

A complaint, brought by a Republican officer from Snohomish in May, alleged Reardon concealed the funding source for trade missions that occurred between 2005 and 2009. The allegations of concealment were dismissed by the commission. In addition, the commission found no evidence to support allegations that lobbyists or special interests funded any of the travel.

“I’ve always taken our state’s strict public disclosure laws very seriously,” Reardon said. “The commission’s decision affirms that these outlandish allegations of concealment were false on their face.”

In addition to dismissing all allegations of concealment, the commission also considered paperwork-filing errors that were corrected by Reardon in April, prior to any PDC investigation.

Under state disclosure rules, elected officials must disclose the source of payment for official travel if the source is anyone other than the government agency for whom the official works. While the funding source for a 2009 trip had been made public, paperwork initially filed with the commission did not properly address the mission.

Reardon discovered and reported the error in April by filing an amended report. The commission cited Reardon for the inadvertent filing error with a $250 fine.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.