Executive addresses issue of preserving affordable housing

Executive Aaron Reardon’s proposal to preserve affordable existing housing for County low income seniors was approved by the Snohomish County Council on March 28, 2007. The approved ordinance provides a contingent loan guarantee to bond offerings of the Housing Authority of Snohomish County (HASCO) to purchase the Squire and Kingsbury East Mobile Home Parks (“the Parks”) in Lynnwood.

Executive Reardon said the agreement responds to, “a critical housing need in South County which is particularly urgent for seniors.”

Without the action, low income tenants of these properties would have lost their homes.

Reardon originally submitted the housing plan to the Council last October. The Council later approved a formal motion authorizing a Contingent Loan Agreement permitting HASCO to purchase the mobile home parks.

The acquisition cost of the two parks is $10.2 million. Because the County has a strong bond rating, the loan guarantee saved approximately $500,000 on the total cost of the project, and enables lower rents rates for the residents.

As part of the approved housing finance plan, the County will also provide $2.6 million of housing trust funds.
Governor appoints Executive to State climate advisory team

Governor Chris Gregoire announced on Thursday, March 29 the appointment of Executive Aaron Reardon to the Washington Climate Change Challenge Advisory Team.

The Advisory Team met Friday, March 30, to begin considering the full range of policies and strategies that may be adopted to achieve the goals established in the Governor’s Executive Order 07-06.

Executive Reardon said, “Climate change is one of our most significant contemporary challenges. I welcome the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion, review applicable models and advance workable climate control solutions.”

Governor Gregoire issued an executive order in February outlining the challenges that climate change poses for the state and the steps already being taken to limit and prepare for climate change. The executive order created Washington Climate Change Challenge and directed the departments of Ecology and Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) to form the Climate Advisory Team to forge solutions to climate change issues.

The Advisory Team will make recommendations for action to Governor Gregoire by February 2008.

Reminder: Concerned About Growth and Development in Your Area?

On April 11, County Executive Aaron Reardon will officially kickoff a major project to update and revise Snohomish County’s Unified Development Code (UDC), the regulations that govern all land use, zoning and development activities in unincorporated areas of the County.

continue
UDC Update Project Kickoff Event
Wednesday, April 11, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Snohomish County Campus, Admin. East, Meeting Room 1
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett

“Join us as we work to ensure that tomorrow’s neighborhoods provide the quality of life that has made Snohomish County the best place to live, work and raise a family,” says Executive Reardon.

- Hear how the County is approaching this major update.
- Give us ideas for improving development regulations.
- Learn how you can be involved.

More information:  www.snoco.org and search “UDC Update”

County to host "Community Strategies for Team Hosting" workshop

SnoGold 2010 welcomes Washington State’s 2010 Program and communities throughout the greater Northwest for a “Community Strategies for Team Hosting” workshop and webinar from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 11 at the Edward D. Hansen Conference Center at the Everett Events Center, 2000 Hewitt Avenue.

“Snohomish County is the northwest’s Gateway to the Games,” Executive Reardon said. “It is imperative we are organized and able to offer our services and resources to guests traveling through our county before, during and after the Games. This upcoming workshop is an opportunity to better understand what it takes to host a team that would train in your community.”

continued
The workshop features:

- David Pym, manager and director for the Canadian Ski and Snowboard Association. Pym is charged with locating training sites for a number of country teams.

- Ian Burkheimer, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) 2010 Program Manager. Burkheimer will showcase his training venues website and discuss his team outreach program.

- Carla Qualtrough, Director of Inclusion and Sport Tourism; Legal Counsel for 2010 Legacies Now; President, Canadian Paralympic Committee. Qualtrough will discuss sports tourism planning and her experience with British Columbia’s hosting programs.

- Laura Lee, Business Manager, Seattle Skating Club. Lee will discuss opportunities and considerations for communities interested in hosting teams and individual competitors for ice sports training.

SnoGold 2010 is a committee representing government, tribes, businesses and organizations in Snohomish County working to benefit from the opportunities created by the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, BC.

More

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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.