



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Dave Gossett
(425) 388-3494

Council Continues to Implement Charter Amendments

In November of 2006, voters approved a charter amendment requiring the County Council to provide additional public access to Council proceedings.

Today the Council passed an ordinance establishing a public information officer (PIO) as a regular position in the legislative branch of government. The Council carefully weighed alternatives to meet the objectives of the County Charter and unanimously supported the PIO position as the way to promote public access to Council proceedings and other aspects of county government.

“The new position gives Council the additional resources necessary to fully implement the wishes of the voters” said Councilmember Dave Somers. “It is helpful to have adequate staffing to support our ongoing communication needs.”

“This is a position that will go a long way in delivering the level of transparency that our citizens desire”, said Councilmember Dave Gossett. “In an age of instant information this PIO is an essential addition to our staff.”

“Providing up-to-the-minute awareness of Council activities will make an unprecedented level of civic involvement available to the public” said Councilmember Gary Nelson. “A full time professional serving in this capacity is a necessity for any organization like ours.”

“We are a rapidly growing county and better communication is demanded of the Snohomish County Council” said Councilmember John Koster. “I fully support implementing this Charter Amendment”.

“The goals of our stated work plan are consistent with the charter amendment “, said Councilmember Kirke Sievers. “It was good to have Charter Review Commissioners testifying today in support of our efforts.”

In addition to publishing agendas, minutes, maintaining the Council website and attending to ongoing media related work the PIO will also be reviewing and recommending any necessary changes to the Snohomish County Code related to Council procedures related to the ballot measure.

The addition of a PIO will strengthen the long standing commitment of the Snohomish County Council to be citizen centered while maintaining a strong focus on service.