



Snohomish County
County Executive's Office

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Reardon outlines accomplishments of administration's first 100 days

All three of County Executive's key initiatives well underway; administration also moving in economic development, law and justice, and land use arenas

With Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon nearing the end of his first 100 days in office, he took time before the South Snohomish County Chamber of Commerce Wednesday to highlight progress made by his administration in several areas.

Referring back to his State of the County address to the Snohomish County Council in January, Reardon noted that three of his administration's top priorities – the establishment of a priority-based budgeting process, new accountability tools for citizens and the writing of a County economic plan – are on a fast-track.

In addition, Reardon cited progress in several other areas in which his administration has been working, such as the implementation of The Boeing Company/7E7 agreement, the creation of an Executive Law and Justice Task Force, the appointment of a high-ranking planning official to oversee agriculture efforts, and the wooing of a NASCAR speedway.

The list includes:

Priority-Based Budgeting – The Reardon administration has laid the foundation for a fundamental restructuring of the way Snohomish County prepares its annual budget. Faced with a projected \$16.6 million budget deficit in the County's 2005 budget, the administration has chosen to conduct a top-to-bottom review of everything County government does.

Priority-based budgeting focuses on the efficient delivery of citizens' budget priorities, not on trimming from the previous year's spending plan.

Reardon, his Executive Office staff and the Finance Department's budget team are working with the Minneapolis-based Public Strategies Group, which helped the State of Washington with a priority-based budget last year. They have also met with other Snohomish County elected officials to explain how a priority-based

budget is built and what they can expect from the budget process. Another series of meetings is scheduled for this week.

Snohomish County Council members have unanimously endorsed priority-based budgeting. Reardon has also won praise from other groups for bringing the process to local government, including the Washington Roundtable, whose members include the state's largest home-based corporations; the Association of Washington Business; and the Washington Research Council.

SnoStat – The County Executive today unveiled Phase 1 of SnoStat, an on-line accountability tool that allows citizens to track whether County government is meeting established benchmarks. Performance data from the departments of Corrections, Public Works, and Planning and Development is now available on the Snohomish County website (www.co.snohomish.wa.us).

SnoStat will indicate to taxpayers and government officials how well the County is delivering services and the costs associated with those services - as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

SnoStat will be brought on-line in three phases. Phase 2 will running by July 2004 and will coincide with the transition to a priority-based budget process. Phase 3 will be implemented in early 2005 and will establish how County budget priorities will be funded. SnoStat is modeled after the New York City "CompStat" system which provided the New York City Police Department with a snapshot of preliminary crime statistics. CompStat assisted the police to tactically plan how to adequately deploy their resources.

Citizens Cabinet – Reardon appointed the 19-member Citizens Cabinet during January and asked them to prepare an economic development action plan for the County. The Cabinet is on schedule to produce a report in late July that will address issues in four areas: regulatory reform, taxes and fees, human capital and physical infrastructure.

The Citizens Cabinet is co-chaired by Michael Martino, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bothell-based Sonus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Connie Niva, a Washington State University regent who served on the Washington State Transportation Commission and the Everett City Council.

Cliff Bailey, a former Washington State Senator and Snohomish County Council member, chairs the Human Capital subcommittee. Charlie Earl, President of Everett Community College, chairs the Physical Infrastructure subcommittee. The Taxes and Fees subcommittee is chaired by Carol Nelson, CEO of Cascade Bank. Everett attorney James Shipman chairs the Regulatory Reform subcommittee.

Implementation of the Boeing /7E7 agreement - The Snohomish County Council adopted the agreement in January, and the Reardon administration, the Airport, and the Planning and Development Services department have been working with The Boeing Company and the State of Washington to implement the agreement. Specific work has focused on:

- Permitting and building of a barge dock with the Port of Everett, City of Everett, the Tulalip Tribes and others – and developing a successful mitigation package for the project;
- Locating suppliers and training facilities for existing and future Boeing employees;
- Working with all parties to address large cargo freighter handling;
- Supporting the location of the "Aerospace Cluster" near the 7E7 assembly site; and,

- Moving forward with Paine Field improvements.

Executive Law and Justice Task Force – Reardon convened the first meeting of his Executive Law & Justice Task Force in late March. He wants to explore how the County and its cities can reduce the soaring price tag of law enforcement and create a more efficient criminal justice system through regional cooperation.

More than 40 mayors, police chiefs, city council members, judges, city administrators and others from throughout Snohomish County attended the inaugural session. In addition to representatives from Reardon's office, officials from the District Court, the Prosecutor's Office, the Sheriff's Office, Corrections and the Office of Public Defenders met with their city counterparts.

Reardon noted that law and justice expenses represent nearly 70 percent of Snohomish County's 2004 general fund budget, a sharp increase from 10 years ago in 1995 when it was 56 percent.

The Executive Law and Justice Task Force will meet again in late April.

Naval Station Everett support and preparation for Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) review in 2005 – Reardon met with Pentagon officials in Washington, D.C. in early February and has been regularly communicating with the state's congressional delegation to support local military operations and to prepare for the upcoming BRAC round.

During the past legislative session, the administration actively lobbied for passage of measures that support military installations in Washington.

NASCAR – The administration has worked with Marysville and other communities including Arlington and the Tulalip Tribes to develop a proposal to locate an International Speedway Corporation/NASCAR speedway site in Snohomish County.

Appointed Agriculture Coordinator – John Roney, a high-ranking Department of Planning and Development Services employee, was named the County's new Agriculture Coordinator. He is working exclusively with County agricultural interests and promoting economic development efforts to support and promote local farmers.

Appointed Department of Planning and Development Services Director – Reardon hired Craig Ladiser to direct PDS. Ladiser, who worked for Snohomish County in the 1980s, managed a similar department for the City of Seattle. He is working on the organization of PDS to meet future needs.

10-Year Comprehensive Plan update - The County's schedule to update its Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Washington State's Growth Management Act needed to be revised. Working with the Snohomish County Council, a revised schedule has been prepared to meet these requirements.

Updating the protections of the Critical Areas Regulations – Snohomish County's Critical Areas Regulations (CAR) are in need of updating according to state law. The existing CAR process has not resulted in the kind of product that would meet the test of state law. The administration has set an agenda to meet that test and to meet the needs of the 10-year Comprehensive Plan update and Shoreline Master Program update.

Planned Residential Development (PDR) ordinance – The administration worked cooperatively with the Snohomish County Council and industry representatives to pass a revised PDR ordinance. ###

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