



**Snohomish County**  
**County Executive's Office**

*For immediate release – Thursday, March 25, 2004*

**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

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## **In wake of cross burning, Reardon calls on Snohomish County to work toward a better future**

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*County Executive announces Community Council  
to establish a dialogue on diversity and trust*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today expressed his shame over an Arlington cross burning, calling on young people to help build a future in which hatred and distrust no longer distort the mind or harden the heart.

“My deepest sympathy goes to Pastor Jason Martin and his family,” Reardon said. “I am deeply ashamed that there are people in Snohomish County who would commit this crime of hate. It is malicious. We cannot tolerate it. It is not the spirit of the County I know.

“The face of Snohomish County is changing and will continue to change. We must build a future where what we have in common as people is more important than what divides us.”

Reardon announced that he will soon convene his Community Council. It will include an advisory panel made up of citizens from throughout Snohomish County and will hold meetings in all of the County's school districts.

“The purpose of the Community Council will be to focus on social issues of concern to the citizens of Snohomish County,” Reardon said. “I have talked with people who tell me we must create a dialogue in Snohomish County, particularly among our children and young adults. Issues would include race relations, unemployment, housing, all forms of discrimination, violence and domestic abuse.

“Events Wednesday in Arlington underscore how important such a Community Council can be. Young people will play a significant role in it, because in Snohomish County I believe our schools, churches and communities must all connect to our kids.”

Martin is pastor of the Marysville-based Jesus Is Lord Life Tabernacle. Executive Reardon spoke with Pastor Martin this morning about the cross burning, expressing his concern over the incident and support for his family.

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