



**Snohomish County
County Executive's Office**

For immediate release – Tuesday, August 16, 2005

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Reardon asks County Council to trim Salary Commission recommendation

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*11 percent salary increase should be reduced to level of pay raises
offered to Snohomish County employees, Executive says*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon Monday asked that a pay increase recommended by an independent salary commission be lowered so it is in line with raises being offered to County employees.

The proposed pay raise is part of a recommendation from the Citizens' Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials, which studies the relationship of salaries to the duties of Snohomish County elected officials. The Commission's recommendations were released Friday and now await final action by the Snohomish County Council.

In a memorandum sent Monday to Snohomish County's 2,700 employees, Executive Reardon wrote:

"Since 1999, my salary has been determined by a citizens' commission. I have made it my policy to support the public process but I have never appeared before such a commission to ask for a pay increase. Moreover, I have never offered any public comment or opinion on the final outcome of such processes. However, I am breaking from this policy today. I believe strongly that any pay increase given to elected county officials be commensurate with raises being given to our county employees.

"I want to thank the Citizens' Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials for all their work. However, when I ran for the office of Snohomish County Executive, I did not run for the money. I ran to serve my community.

“A year ago I asked employees in my Executive Office to forego merit pay increases. I asked them to join me in leading by example as we worked to balance a budget deeply in the red. I asked this county to tighten its belt and live within its means. By being diligent we eliminated a more than \$13.4 million deficit, balancing the budget and bringing Snohomish County back into the black.

“To achieve long-term fiscal solvency we must maintain fiscal discipline. Snohomish County’s current financial situation simply does not allow for substantial pay increases for our elected officials.

“Any pay increase for our elected officials must be more in line with the level of pay raises being offered to Snohomish County’s 2,700 employees. You all helped bring Snohomish County back into the black last year. To maintain an effective partnership between the elected county officials and our employees, our pay raises must be commensurate with yours.

“To that end, I have asked the Snohomish County Council to think in these terms.”

The Citizens’ Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials meets every two years to forward a recommended salary schedule to the Snohomish County Council.

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