



Media Advisory – Aug. 25, 2008

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Reardon rules out staff pay raises, asks others to follow suit

To continue shoring up lagging revenues, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced Monday that department heads and management-exempt employees reporting to the executive department will not be eligible this year for merit raises.

“The county’s finance department has determined that we do not have sufficient funds available for these special merit increases,” Reardon said. “While I have limited control over spending by other elected officials, I strongly encourage them to follow suit.”

Reardon sent a memo Monday to department heads announcing the decision and a letter to other elected officials asking them to take the same steps.

County employees are still expected to receive cost-of-living adjustments at the beginning of 2009. COLAs, as they are called, vary according to departmental contracts.

In the meantime, Reardon is looking to decrease a \$9 million revenue shortfall leading into the 2009-2010 budget cycle. Reardon will present his proposed budget Sept. 4.

“It is our obligation to the citizens of Snohomish County to protect the financial health of Snohomish County government, and this step is necessary to assure that,” he said. “While merit raises can be beneficial during healthier economic times, this year any such reward would fly in the face of the financial realities confronting the majority of our citizens.”

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