



Media Advisory – March 12, 2009

Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

Reardon endorses rainy day fund ordinance

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has approved an ordinance creating a General Fund Revenue Stabilization Fund, commonly referred to as a Rainy Day Reserve Fund.

The ordinance will allow the county to reserve funds to mitigate the impact of economic swings such as has recently occurred nationwide. A previous fund created in 1993 has been inactive since 2003 and was repealed by the County Council in 2006.

The ordinance, introduced by Councilman Brian Sullivan, follows the path of a similar ordinance that Reardon introduced in 2004.

“I’m pleased to see the steps that will allow us a better strategy and a more prudent approach to saving funds for a rainy day,” Reardon said. “We must continue to show fiscal discipline, and previous Councils have not allowed for that.”

Specifically, the ordinance requires that the county deposit any available General Fund reserves that exceed liquidity needs into the new Stabilization Fund. Each annual budget also shall identify any additional funds that can be contributed to the Stabilization Fund.

“A stricter General Fund reserve policy is an essential part of preparing for future downswings while limiting their impact on our budget,” Reardon said.

###