
FORUM 1 TRANSCRIPT

King County Budget Workshops

Forum 1

N. Seattle, WA

March 28, 2007

OBFMMH – Program Categories

M: I'm going to spend a couple of minutes going through the general categories of the King County budget. These are services that King County government provides throughout the county on a countywide basis. The categories are Law, Safety & Justice. That includes things like the automated fingerprint and identification system, 911 operations, emergency management services, emergency medical services, jails and rehabilitation services, juvenile services, the prosecuting attorney and public defender, the Superior Courts and the Sheriff Department are all in that category. Health & Human Services includes children and family services, Harborview Medical Center that is a County facility, the County Coroner, the public health department, and senior services. General Government includes the County assessor, the County auditor, and records and elections division. Transportation and Utilities includes Metro Transit, solid waste and wastewater treatment, and parks and recreation, open space and regional trails are County functions. As you know, the County is made up of cities and unincorporated areas. The County government functions somewhat differently in different areas. For local cities, some small cities contract with County government to provide services. For example, police services. Some small cities don't have their own police department. They contract with the County Sheriff to be their police department. Also animal control, the prosecutor and public defenders, and district courts. In some areas, the County does code enforcement and building permits, hearing examiners, and things that might be done by a city government but are contracted to the County. Roads, sidewalks and streetlights, and parks and recreation, and children and family services. There are some things that County government cannot do. The County government is a creature of the State. The legislature says this is what the County government can and cannot do. Some of the things the County government does not do are schools and education, libraries, putting out fires, providing drinkable water and electricity, cable communications and phone services. The County also does not do zoning inside of cities, although it does zoning in unincorporated areas. It does not maintain State highways. They don't maintain Federal highways. They don't pick up garbage or provide natural gas. Also, Sound Transit is a multi-county agency. That's a quick look at some of the things that County government does and does not do. We want to do a quick prioritization of those categories. Which would you say is your top priority? We're talking pretty

broad here, obviously. Of the County budget categories, and there are six major categories, which is your top priority? It doesn't mean the others are zero priority, it just means which one is the most important to you. Law, Safety & Justice, Health & Human Services, Transportation, Parks & Recreation, Planning & Economic Development or General Government. Which one is your top priority?

R: Where do records and elections fit into there?

M: General government. Now indicate your second priority. Here's how we get these numbers. The top priority gets ten points, nine for second priority, etc. If everybody in the room had voted for the same thing as their number one priority, it would receive a ten. It allocates the points then divides it by the number of people voting to arrive at this number. Health & Human Services was rated here as the top priority with a score of six. Very close were Law, Safety & Justice and Transportation. Then there's quite a drop off for the others. Clearly here, Community Health & Human Services was rated the top priority category. Here is the result from our workshops. We had five workshops with a total of 250 people participating in those around the County. This was their answer to this question that you just answered. They had as their top priority Law, Safety & Justice, followed by Health & Human Services and Transportation. So it was the same three at the top but in different order. Now we're going to have a little primer on the budget and where the money comes in and how the money goes out. We're going to spend most of the rest of our time here looking at programs within these categories and getting a sense from you as to how you would prioritize programs within these categories.

OBFMMH – Law, Safety & Justice

M: This is the category that is 71% of the pie we just saw. These are the top four prioritizes as determined by the workshops that we held around the County. We want you to take these priorities and tell us how you would prioritize them. The categories are Superior and District Courts, which include mental health, criminal, civil, family law, therapeutic and drug programs; emergency preparedness and emergency management; jails and community corrections; and the Sheriff's Department. Those are the top four prioritize categories as determined by our workshops. If you were to say which of those was your top priority, which would you choose? Now vote for your second priority. Superior and District Courts is on top by a fair margin with a priority score of eight. Emergency preparedness is two. Jails is three and the Sheriff's Department is 2.75. In the meetings we held around the County, a little different order. The Courts were at the top, followed by the Sheriff's Department, jails were fourth and emergency preparation was third. Any surprises there? Any comments or questions?

R: What happened to mental health?

- M:** It's part of the courts. We have other categories coming, but the mental health courts didn't make the cut in priority. It's part of the courts.
- M2:** As you can imagine, it's difficult to neatly package different things into a particular silo here. For example, mental health was the question here. We do have mental health courts and services there that are connected under our Superior and District Courts, so it is represented there.
- R:** I felt it was hard to make a choice. It was hard for me to make a choice. A lot of them were important and I didn't have a main number one or I wanted something more clarified, or I didn't want to hit any of the buttons because I felt all of them were important. I'm just telling you that.
- M:** It is hard. In an era where there are lots of needs and finite resources, this is what these folks have to do – make those priority choices, so that's why we're asking the public to help us. It is hard to do because all of those items are up there for a reason. Someone needs each of those programs, but no County or State government can do everything, so priorities have to be made. It's hard work.
- R:** It would help a lot if we had something that would categorize within those. Is there a paper somewhere that categorizes what those things are? We wouldn't know yet, some of us, what is within each one of those. Are you going to take the average? Are you going to put all of these meetings together? You're going to average them all out as to what's important?
- M:** Generally, yes. We'll also be able to see, meeting by meeting, how things got rated. We're at a pretty general level with these meetings. I don't want anyone to think that we're going to write the budget here tonight. We won't get down to the level of detail needed to write a budget. We can indicate priorities and direction. As citizens, we're letting our preferences know in a general way. We can't get down to line items.
- R:** You've probably been doing these types of meetings for a while now. I'm sure Sheriff's Department and Courts have been a pretty constant need for decades. Has emergency preparedness spiked since 911, and what has happened since then? Has it gone down or up?
- M:** We haven't actually done this before. This is the first time we've done this for the County in this fashion. I can tell you in the conversations we've had around the County in the workshops, not only 911 but Katrina and the wind storms we had here all factored in to people's discussions about the need for emergency preparedness. There is a higher awareness for those services than there might have been a couple of years ago.

M2: There are many aspects to this. For example, pandemic flu preparedness. For us as a policy body, how much in terms of dollars and funds do we put forward as a regional government who is really uniquely positioned to assist with emergency preparedness as opposed to a required mandate for the County to do that. However, we are best positioned to do that as a regional government. There are other things we have to do, like the courts. It is always tough for us to make these decisions. That's why it is helpful to us to get feedback. If folks are saying that emergency preparedness is a real priority, that helps guide us at a general level when we put together very specific aspects of the budget.

M3: The data just came in about two days ago on the November/December flood damage. They've totaled it up to be \$33 million in flood damage. I think it's really important to know that there are a lot of issues like that coming up. As you make a budget and then find out that you have \$33 million more in damage than you thought, it adds to the different perspectives.

R: The first category there, Superior Courts, in your previous slide was a broad category that included mental health. The reason why I wanted to speak was because that was the thing that jumped out at me; however, down below at jails and corrections, in terms of budget priorities, I think it is absolutely essential that the Council know that we need to address mental health issues rather than jailing people in terms of priorities. When you're looking at this category and making budget priorities, I think that's what the dilemma is as far as us reading it and making a category. That's what I wanted to clarify.

M: Excellent point. Thank you. This is what makes this kind of polling unique. We can talk about these results and get clarification about what people were thinking when they pushed that button.

R: I wanted to make a comment on the budgeting. The fact is that we have veterans coming back from over seas. They often have mental health problems. I would like to see money funded for the veterans returning. It not only affects the veterans themselves, but their families as well. It has far-reaching, long lasting, devastating effects on not only the returning veterans, but also their entire families. We know this and knowing it, we should plan ahead for it. If it were not for the veterans, we would not be sitting here having this meeting.

I'd like to agree with the previous comments about the importance of mental health. I would like to speak on behalf of the Minority Executive Director's Coalition, which represents over 100 directors of color in King County. The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, which annually brings over 2,000 of our community members to Olympia to advocate for mental health funding, and I'd like to speak also for Asian Counseling Referral Service that services over 20,000 people in our community. All three of these organizations place mental health as a priority. All three of these organizations urge the council to pass the one-tenth

of one percent mental health/substance abuse tax that would raise much needed funding for mental health services in King County. King County has the lowest funding per client of any area of the State and yet we have the greatest needs. If we don't solve this problem and make sure there is adequate funding for the people in our community who desperately need these services, we will see more people in more costly settings like jails and hospitals. So, if we address the mental health funding questions, we will be addressing many other needs in the community. I urge the council to go ahead and pass that tax as soon as possible. Your own members, including council member Bob Ferguson, thank you very much for speaking out on that tax. And also President Larry Gosset served on the Health Families and Communities Task Force that urged that as a priority for King County. Please do pass that tax.

M: Thank you.

M2: I'd like to follow up on that. On the veterans one, I agree completely and my colleagues agree as well. In fact, last year there was a levy put forward by the council for additional funding for half the dollars going to veterans and their families, and the other half going to general human services. The voters of King County overwhelming approved that levy. I think it was 60%. Half of those funds, about \$7 million a year, go specifically for exactly the types of programs you're talking about. The council did that action on that last year. On the mental health initiative, it is one that the council is working on. The operating budget committee is the committee that is actually working through it. Just so you know, there will be in the month of June a meeting in Shoreline specifically on the mental health and chemical dependency issues. The meeting will be chaired by Julia Patterson. We can get information about that to you if you are interested in attending.

M: Let's move to the next category.

OBFMMH – Public Health

M: There are also four priorities here from the workshops. I'd ask you which is your top priority: Public health clinics, drug and substance abuse treatment, immunizations programs, and pandemic flu preparation and response. Which one of those is your top priority? Now vote for your second priority. Public health clinics, followed by drug and substance abuse treatment, immunization programs and then pandemic flu preparation and response. Public health is well ahead, with drug and substance abuse not that far behind.

R: I feel very uncomfortable about what I'm being asked to decide here. I feel like I'm on a pop show (sp?) and I'm being asked, without preparation, discussion or information, to make selections out of what I think are all important issues that

need to be decided by council through your professional involvement in your first hand experience with these various departments of life. For us to be asked to sit here and press buttons to pick one of these things out of all of them makes me feel silly, like I shouldn't be participating and we shouldn't be making these kinds of choices.

- M:** Let me say again that we're not making choices in that finite of a sense. We're not writing a budget. What we're trying to do is get a sense of what the citizens of the County think are the important issues. All we're doing is ranking importance. It doesn't say that pandemic flu preparation is not important. It just says that public health clinics are more important. Some things have to be more important than others. So all we're really doing is ranking. I'll also say that, of course, the council is going to bring in a lot of other factors when they write the budget. One important factor that they wanted to here, and one of the reasons they're doing this, is to find out the public opinion and sentiment on these things. That's why we're here. We're not cutting anybody out.
- M3:** I want to tell you why this is important to me. There was a proposal put before the King County council last year to cut the funding to a couple of the public health clinics. I think they were both in King County. You folks have put this as being at the top. You're not alone. We're seeing this all over King County. This information doesn't mean we're going to slash funding for pandemic flu preparedness. We're not going to do that. From my perspective, what this information does is to help me realize that the clinics are really important and maybe we should be reconsidering the idea of cutting healthcare. I want to reassure you that just because pandemic flu is at the bottom doesn't mean it's going away or that we're going to cut it. It just gives us other information about how we should behave come budget time.
- M:** Here is the result from the other workshops. Public health clinics were even more heavily rated as a top priority. It's pretty much the same order that you had. Everywhere we go, we see that public health clinics are a top priority in this category.
- R:** I appreciate the value of what you're doing and I appreciate the explanation. One concern I would offer is that it seems that the format doesn't take advantage of something that perhaps would be of value in a format like this, and that is to ask for the citizens input into what you're not doing and what's not on the list that you should be doing.
- M3:** One thing I should mention is that this is the first time the County council has done this. This is the first time we've gone out before the citizens before the budget is prepared and ask for feedback of any kind. It's an experiment for us. We can look at this year and make improvements or changes for next

year. Frankly, all of this feedback is helpful. We spend literally months in budget committee meetings going over the details. Julia is right. The public health clinics are a prime example. I think it is fair to say that none of us had any idea how highly public health clinics would have ranked countywide. Again, you're seeing the top priorities from the workshops. We want to see what the public thinks of those priorities that came out of the workshops, then have a conversation about them. So it is tremendously helpful, specifically on public health clinics. This year we have to make some important policy decisions about the future of providing those types of services.

R: I want to say thank you. This is excellent. With due respect to our authorities and leaders, you have wonderful instincts to make the right decisions. These are very good. I like this! Thank you.

I have a feel for how the people in this group feel. I'd like to find out the consistency of the 250 people and how differently they are thinking from us here. How many male and female, and things like that. What part of the county were the 250 from?

M: That report is actually available on the County web site.

M3: We also have a hard copy available to you on the way out.

R: I just want to say that I appreciate the Council members coming here to meet with us. I do like the aspect of being able to push the buttons and decide what categories are important to me. I think part of the problem is that a lot of these areas are too broad. Specifically, you're feeding us the issues, yet some of us would like to see things like mental health as a priority or homelessness. I don't know if maybe there are other slides. Maybe I'm too premature in asking for that.

M: There are other slides on down, and that's a very good introduction to the next slide.

OBFMMH - Community & Human Services

M: The priorities that emerged out of the workshops were low-income housing, the ten-year plan to end homelessness that the Council has adopted, work training programs, and youth and family services. Again, these are broad categories, but which direction would you like to seem ore emphasis within these four categories? What is your second priority? It was pretty closely bunched here. They are interrelated and I think that is reflected in these results. Youth and family services is at the top but not that much ahead. Very closely bunched is ending homelessness, low-income housing and work training programs. I think that reflects the interrelatedness of these

- programs. I also want to say that one of the reasons we give two choices for four items is because it's hard to do. We don't want to force anyone to make just a sole choice. We want to allow you to spread it out and give us an opportunity to know how you think. In the worships, they said low-income housing at the top, youth and family services, work training services, and then ending homelessness. They were also fairly tightly bunched.**
- R: I'm only guessing as to why our results are different from the previous results. It's pretty hard to vote for a plan. You can't eat it. You can't sleep in it. The fact that we prioritize the ten-year plan to end homelessness as high as we did, I can only guess that there's been a lot of education in this group in this area and less education among the previous people that you polled. Standing alone, a plan doesn't mean a lot.
- M: **I think, too, a lot of it is just a desire to focus resources on ending homelessness rather than a specific plan.**
- M3: **I want to make sure we're really clear on this. The ones you are choosing from here tonight are the ones that were actually prioritized amongst a wider number of choices from those focus groups. You are looking at the top selections from the focus group. We want to have a dialogue with the public about those top priorities. Actually, a ten-year plan to end homelessness here was number four, but it is already one of the top four from that group. In other words, it is already ranked very highly. All the ones that you're seeing are ones that were pulled from the top of the choices from those workshops. Everything you are seeing tonight has already been identified as a priority.**
- R: I want to say thank you to our King County Council member, because the South Pacific Island had a few dollars last year in the budget for the after school tutoring and study services station. It works real good. I wanted to deliver that to you. It is a good thing to do. Keep on funding us.
- I want to thank the Council for providing this opportunity for feedback. I've just read the draft human services policy framework that I think will be coming before the Council soon. I'm very supportive of the basic issues that are listed in that draft human services policy framework, including mental health funding, criminal justice providing services to youth and families. But I'm very concerned about the fact that senior services are not mentioned in that document once. I work with an agency that provides services to over 50,000 seniors in this community and it is dismaying to me that as the County has reduced its commitment to funding for senior services and shifted to the local communities that services for seniors are beginning to fall between the cracks.
- I would suggest that we go through the questions with no comments or else we're never going to get through with this thing. Allow time afterwards for comments and we can bring all of these important points before the council.

M: We will have time at the end for other comments, so if we could keep the comments contained to the category and the chart before us, we'll be able to move more expeditiously. We're doing okay, but we do have to keep moving. The next category is Natural Resources and the Environment.

OBFMMH – Natural Resources & Environment

M: The four priorities that emerged out of the workshops were farmland preservation, flood control, habitat conservation, and regional parks and open space. So, in the category of Natural Resources & Environment, which of these is your top priority? Second priority? Regional parks and open space. Close behind was habitat conservation. Then there's a little drop to farmland preservation and then flood control.

R: Does flood control include developing a long-range plan to respond to rising sea levels, including probably a 50-year planning effort to do something like relocate the West Point plant?

M4: We're not going to be relocating the West Point plant soon. It's essentially a new plant and we're adding a new plant in Brightwater to serve the greater wastewater service district for Metro. The overall cost of the system is something this council and the greater community has been very interested in for a long time. We're trying to put in place something that can accommodate growth for the next 30 years, including our kids and grandkids. We are very cognizant on what is happening with cost and budgeting within the waste water system.

R: I'm interested in how many farms are farmed on this farmland preservation program.

M5: I'm not the most expert person on this. We've been able to preserve about 42,000 acres of farmland in King County that had been in steady decline over a long period because of sprawl and eastward growth in King County for a long period of time. Many of those farms are being farmed in one fashion or another. We do have some fallow farmland, but the soils are preserved. The County has been involved for some time in bringing about a new generation of farmers to those lands. There was in 1979 a \$50 million bond issue that was passed to buy the development rights to about 14,000 acres of those farmlands. There has been a big effort to preserve the land. What we have not done until very recently is connecting farmers and the farming community to those soils. That's an ongoing effort by the County.

M: Let's take a look at what the workshops said. Flood control was actually number one. Regional parks and open space, then habitat and farmland

preservation. A very tight pattern, as you can see. Although flood control is number one there and number four here, it was almost the same score. They are very tightly ranked in terms of priority.

R: Under the physical environment, I'm wondering if any of that money is going to be allocated to pay for the property that you took from the rural property owners out there. When you want property from the railroads or from the corporations or from another government, you pay them, but the rural property owners – you took 65% of their property. I owned 30 acres for 30 years in the rural district. I invested my own labor and my money in that. I am now 74 years old. Twenty of my 30 acres was taken away from me without paying me a penny. We should be in the budget, but there aren't enough votes. You see there aren't millions of people out there. There are only 8,000 people who lost their property. So we're ignored. There aren't enough votes to matter. I'm sorry if I feel bitter, but it's too late for me to start over preparing for my retirement investment. I worked hard all my life, and three years ago my retirement was taken away from me. I'm a schoolteacher. I'm one of the oldest schoolteachers in the system. I have to keep working and getting up at 5:00 a.m. every morning. Do you have an answer?

M6: I can give an answer. I want you to know that the topic this lady brought up tonight is a very controversial, difficult, politically charged, sometimes partisan topic. The question would be better asked at a general County Council meeting. If we started to delve into this issue tonight, it would destroy our ability to get through the budget process. It is an issue associated with land use, the questions associated with property rights, the questions associated with tensions between those things and to what extent government can regulate property. That's what this is about. What we're here tonight it to talk about the budget.

R: I should be on the budget. *(Inaudible – too far from microphone.)*

M6: As you can see, it was a very charged issue.

R: Yes or no? Up or down?

M6: I think we're going to move on.

M: Any other comments? Yes?

R: I'd like to respond to that earlier point. This is the reason I came tonight. You don't have a choice. The sea level is rising. There are two questions. One is how fast and the other is how far. You ought to be planning for it. I don't know when you have to start moving that plant, but we don't have a choice. It has to go.

M4: If I could, the plant is operating and it won't be overwhelmed by rising sea levels any time soon, but there was an effort to try to expand West Point for

the next 30 years. The County Council, in cooperation with many voices in the region, chose not to do that. That's why a third treatment plant is located well inland north of the County line near Woodenville. That plant is not going to be overwhelmed by seawater. In fact, it's a great investment with the highest level of technology for water quality away from Puget Sound.

M: Now we're going to wrap some of this together and take the items that you just ranked as the top two in each category and put them on here. Now we're taking the top two programs in each category into this next round, which is overall budget priorities.

OBFMMH – Overall Budget Priorities

M: Of these eight, which is your top priority? Of course, we'll give you two choices. They are: Superior & District Courts, emergency preparedness, public health clinics, drug and substance abuse treatment, youth & family services, ten-year plan to end homelessness, regional parks & open spaces, and habitat conservation. Of those eight across all four categories, which one is your highest priority? And now your second priority. Public health clinics, Superior & District Courts, youth & family services, then the rest are all very tightly bunched here. Habitat conservation, substance abuse treatment, regional parks & open spaces, ending homelessness, and emergency preparedness. Public health clinics clearly is a top priority across all the budget, which reinforces what we saw earlier. We don't have a comparative chart because we had different items as we moved across the county, but I will tell you that public health clinics were at the top of all of those lists, too. Any quick comments about this one? Yes?

R: I didn't even vote because I just can't choose one or two. They are all so important. I need to have a discussion. It's hard.

M4: My colleagues and I are chuckling a little bit because essentially that's our job. You have to choose. This year, for the first time, I'm chairing the budgeting committee. My colleagues have done that in the past. I can assure you that a day doesn't go by when an organization or an entity is asking King County to fund their programs or issues that are important to them. We can't do it all. For us, making those choices is very difficult. Another point is this: not only was Public Health number one county wide, but it is fascinating for all of us to see how important that is to everyone. Also, youth & family services, at least for me, wasn't intuitively to us as highly ranked as you've shown it to be. Keep in mind, these priorities are the priorities shown by the workshops and you are prioritizing from those. It was fascinating for me to see how highly ranked youth & family services were countywide. It is helpful to us in making those tough choices that ultimately we have to do.

M: Those are tough choices. Last summer, we did this for State budgets. We had meetings all over the State. We had similar reactions. One of the things people learned is that it is hard to write budgets. One more, then we'll move on.

R: It's not surprising to me about the public health clinics. With 46,000,000 uninsured in this country, and healthcare being so hard to get for people, this is the last resort. It makes perfect sense to me. When the clinics were going to be closed, that really got me off of the couch to say something. It was devastating to those who use the clinics. Family & Youth Services is the same because of the children who also need that healthcare. It makes perfect sense to me that the public is crying out for these. Thank you.

The man earlier was talking about senior services. Today I wrote a letter because of the very same thing. We are looking at healthcare services and, at a certain age, you go on Medicaid. When you say you are a Medicaid or Medicare recipient and you tell your doctor, they won't take you. When that happens, you really don't have insurance. My dad is 82 and my mom is 78. Both of them in the last month have been told they can't go to the doctor they need because they are on Medicaid. That is completely unacceptable. I think there is a bigger crisis looming out there on the Federal level. While they say they are doing good things for senior citizens, when a senior citizen thinks they have insurance can't see the doctor they need to, that's not okay.

Do you mean Medicaid or Medicare?

I'm sorry. I meant to say Medicare.

M4: One thing I'll add about the comment on people who are underinsured or uninsured is this: I believe in King County the number is about 180,000 who are underinsured or uninsured. To put that in perspective, the population of King County is about 1.8 million. That's an entire county district full of people who lack full health insurance. That puts a very local perspective on that issue.

M: We need to move on. I'm sorry. I'm trying to save time for general comments. Here's another list.

OBFMMH – General Fund Priorities

M: These are General Fund categories. Some of these items weren't on the previous list, and some were. We have public health clinics, the elections department, disease prevention, community services, Superior Court and emergency preparedness and management. Of these programs, which do

you think should have higher priority? And second priority? Public health clinics once again was at the top of the list. Community services, courts, emergency preparedness, elections and disease prevention. Pretty consistent. Public health clinics, any time on the list, has been at the top of that list. We want to move into another topic now.

OBFMMH – Transit (Non-Riders)

M: First we're going to talk about non-riders. This is for people who do not ride the bus. The next category is for people who do ride the bus. If you don't ride the bus, which of these four things would be most likely to motivate you...

R: Define ride the bus because sometimes I do and sometimes I don't.

M: Then you do. If you ride the bus, you ride the bus.

R: If I ride it once a year, am I a bus rider?

M: Once a year? That might be pushing it. Once a week, you're a rider. We have a ruling! If you ride the bus once a week or more, you're a transit rider. If it's less than that, you can answer this. Which of these things would be most likely to get you on the bus? Greater frequency, express buses, better security for riders, or different routes? Second priority? It looks like we have 67 or 68 non-riders. Frequency is tops, and different routes, express buses and security for bus riders follow. So we have frequency and routes are one and two, closely followed by express buses. We do have a result from our workshops. That was frequency and express buses. Routes came in third. Frequency was number one here and in the workshops around the County. Now let's go to the riders.

OBFMMH – Transit (Riders)

- M:** If you are a transit rider, it's the same question. If you ride the bus once a week or more, which of these things would make you a more satisfied rider? Greater bus reliability, frequency of buses, better security for riders, more and different routes. Number two? Frequency, routes, reliability and security. Frequency and routes clearly at the top of that list. In our workshops, similar answers. Frequency was at the top again. Routes was down a little bit, with security and reliability rated at the bottom but a bit higher. Frequency is the top factor for both riders and non-riders of buses.
- M6:** For those of you who are interested in greater frequency, I wanted to let you know that last fall you had the opportunity vote on a transit proposal to increase your sales tax by one-tenth of one percent. That money would be dedicated to providing more frequent bus services. That service is beginning to come online now. Your council member will probably be sending you some information very soon about which routes up here are going to begin experiencing more frequency. That's something you folks took care of at the ballot box last fall.
- M:** That's our last question. I'll turn it back over to Councilman Ferguson for general comments.
- M5:** Very quickly on that last point, there are new bus hours as Julie mentioned. We are also looking to having a ballot proposal on the fall ballot for Sound transit that would increase substantially transit hours, including 42 miles of new light rail. If that were to pass with a favorable response from the public, it would free up many of the Metro hours that are currently distributed, so you would have a better integrated transit system. These projects and ballot measures are working together.
- M2:** It's just about 8:30. I know we never get a chance at any of these town meetings to get to everyone's questions. I will be here until about 9:00 if you have individual questions for me. There is also a feedback form on everyone's chair as well. Please feel free to fill it out and I will get a response back to you. Don't forget the reports that are available on your way out. Thanks so much for coming out.

END OF REPORT...

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Kent, WA

April 3 ,2007

OBFMMH – Program Categories

M: I'm going to go through the general categories of the King County budget. These are broad categories that we'll be dealing with all night, and not too much detail on any one of them. One category is Law, Safety & Justice. In that category are programs like the automated fingerprint and identification system, 911 operations, emergency management services, emergency medical services like Medic One, jails and rehabilitation, juvenile services, the prosecuting attorney and public defenders, the Superior Courts and the Sheriff Department. Health & Human Services includes children and family services, Harborview Medical Center that is a County facility, the County Coroner, the public health department, and senior services. General Government includes offices like the County assessor, County auditor, and records and electronics division. Transportation and Utilities includes Metro Transit, solid waste and wastewater treatment. Parks and Recreation includes open space throughout the County, and regional parks and trails. Those are the large categories of the County budget. There are some things that the County does not do. Here are a few more things.

R: Where is mental health?

M: In Health & Human Services.

M2: Health & Human Services is a broad title. Underneath it are many, many areas that are considered to be human services. Mental health is one of those. Drug and alcohol treatment, services for the aging, services for children, job training, services for the developmentally disabled, etc. So mental health is part of all of those services that comes under the topic of Health & Human Services.

R: If we don't see something up here tonight, that doesn't necessarily mean that the County isn't using it?

M2: It's like we said in the beginning, you could spend weeks – we actually spend months on the budget. This is a high overview of what King County does. We'll attempt to answer your questions and drill down deeper if there is something in particular that you need later on.

M: I can be objective about all of this because I don't know anything about King County government, so I'm just asking the questions. What does King County do? These are services that the County government provides for the unincorporated areas and for some local governments. For example, Law, Safety & Justice. If you're in an unincorporated area, the Sheriff's Department is your law enforcement agency. It's your police department. There are some smaller cities in the County that also contract with the Sheriff to be the police department. Kent has their own police department but other cities don't, so the Sheriff provides that function. Animal Control, Prosecutors and Public Defense, District Court Services. These are services that the County provides directly in areas where cities don't provide them, so unincorporated areas. Planning & Economic Development: things like building permits, development services, code enforcement, hearing (sp?) exanimate does that in unincorporated areas. Transportation: the County roads, sidewalks and streetlights in the unincorporated areas. Parks & Recreation and Children & Family services. Things that King County government cannot do. I say cannot because the County government is a creature of the State. That is, the State legislature decides what County governments and city governments can and cannot do. The County is actually prohibited from doing some things. Schools & Education: obviously school districts are their own governing agencies, so the County doesn't have anything to do with that. Even though it is called King County Library Services, it is a separate governmental entity. Putting out fires: fire districts do that or cities. Providing drinkable water, providing electricity is done either by municipalities or the private sector. Cable communications and phone services are the same thing. They are done by private sector. The County does not do zoning inside the cities, but does do it in the unincorporated areas. They do the State highways. The County government is not responsible for the viaduct. They don't maintain the Federal highways. They don't repair or maintain streets inside cities. Picking up garbage and natural gas are provided for by the private sector for the most part. That's a quick look at some of the things that County government does and does not do. I'd like to start out with is getting a sense of your priorities among those categories. Which should have higher priority? We're dealing with priorities here. It's not that something is going to get all the money and something else isn't going to get any money. Any budget requires making hard choices. Some things get more emphasis and some things have to get a little less emphasis. So, of these six things that we just talked about, which do you think, you personally, should have the highest priority in County government? The categories are: Law, Safety & Justice, Health & Human Services, Transportation, Parks & Recreation, Planning & Economic Development or General Government. Right now indicate what is your number one priority among these six. Now indicate your second priority. Here is a different chart. If you indicated Health & Human Services as number one, it sent a ten to the computer. It then divides it by the number of people voting. Health & Human Services, with an 8.7, was a very high

priority among the 66 or so people in this room. Law, Safety & Justice was second. Transportation, Planning, Parks and then General Government. Human Services and Law, Safety & Justice are clearly the top two priorities, with Health & Safety at the top. We can switch over and I'll show you what the 250 randomly selected people said. It was the same two at the top, but in reverse order. They had Law, Safety & Justice as number one with a little bit lower score. We're going to go through these categories one by one and ask about programs within each one. If you have something you want to talk about in these categories, we'll get to them. Before we start, we need more background about the County budget.

OBFMMH – Law, Safety & Justice

M: This is the category that's the big slice of the pie we saw earlier. These are the top nine programs that go inside that category. I'm going to ask that you use your gizmo to prioritize these. Public defense attorneys; prosecuting attorney; Superior and District Courts which include mental health, criminal, civil, family law, therapeutic and drug courts; emergency preparedness and management; jails and community corrections; juvenile services; sex offender programs and registration; the Sheriff's Department; victim's assistance. All of these programs are in that 71% of the General Fund budget. Of these nine, which for you is the highest priority? You can choose two, but which is your highest priority? Now vote for your second priority. Superior and District Courts is on top. Juvenile services is second. Then it drops. All the rest are pretty well clumped together. The clear leaders were the court system and juvenile services. Sheriff's Department is fourth. Prosecutors and Public Defenders are down here. The results from the workshops showed courts at the top. The Sheriff's Department scored much higher, as did emergency preparedness. The prosecutor and public defenders were about where you put them.

R: I want to make sure that we send a very clear message about our concern about the mental health system. Mental health funding is kind of included under Superior and District Courts with other issues. I just want to make sure you know that many of us are very, very concerned about mental health issues. I have been with the mental health system for 18 years, and this is the worst that we have seen. We are turning down many people who need critical services because they don't have Medicaid. We are carrying 5,200 cases and it is difficult. I encourage you to seriously consider one-tenth of one percent sales tax to save the system.

Also, if you support that, do not put off that one-tenth of one percent because of any disputes.

How does mental health relate in that category? In my brain, does it mean that the number of mental health people that are brought into the court system for

offenses or is it just a broad spectrum of mental health? We were in Family & Human Services before. Now we're in the Law, Safety & Justice. Can you define that for me?

M3: Again, we're dealing in broad levels this evening. Basically there are two things going on with mental health in King County. The first is with regard to mental health services most in need of mental health care in our community. It is a broad, general category for which many of you this evening want to provide additional funding. We also, within our Superior Court system, run a mental health court for those who have been through the criminal justice system and it has been determined that if they will go through the mental health court system and a legal proceeding and get on to a regimen of medications and counseling so that they may lead more productive lives and stay out of the criminal justice system. There are two different things going on here and sometimes it gets confusing.

R: In light of that, it didn't seem like Health & Human Services was really reflected in the last set of choices. It seemed like only the specific case of mental health court was. I think the problem I have with that is, we're trying to keep people from entering that whole aspect.

M2: The broad category we're looking at and considering these things under is Law, Safety & Justice. Later we will come to a category that is called Health & Human Services. Underneath the category of Law, Safety & Justice, within the Superior and District Court system there are mental health courts. You also will see mental health come up again in another category a little later called Health & Human Services. I think that is your confusion.

M: Let's keep moving, and we'll get to the questions later. The next category is Public Health.

OBFMMH – Public Health

M: This is a large part of the County budget. The programs inside this category include public health clinics, drug and substance abuse treatment, HIV and AIDS prevention programs, immunization programs, pandemic flu preparation and response, restaurant inspections, epidemiology (which is the study of the spread of disease through a community). These are the seven major programs within the Public Health category of the budget. Which one would you give your highest priority? Now vote for your second priority. Public health clinics is number one. Substance abuse treatment is number two. Then it drops off rather substantially. Those two are clearly at the top of the priority list. In our workshops from last month, we got similar results. The public health clinics were number one and substance abuse programs

were number two. Immunization programs scored a bit higher, but the rest were pretty well in line with what you did tonight.

R: I am curious if public health clinics include mental health clinics.

M: Do they?

M2: Our clinics do include some mental health counseling. The public clinics do include some of that.

R: But not clinics specifically for mental health?

M2: No.

R: In reference to public health clinics, does this have to do with low-income individuals and also those on restricted income?

M2: That's exactly right. It is providing health care to people who are uninsured or under insured. This is where people who don't have health insurance go when they get sick. They either go here or the emergency room at Harborview.

R: It just seemed like mental health wasn't adequately represented in the last question.

M: We're getting that message.

M3: I'll just add something here. It's a \$4 billion budget. It's important to point out that it's an incredibly complex and detailed budget. You're absolutely right. We can no sooner highlight mental health than we can highlight any other part of the budget, so we do have to use broad categories. However, from the discussion we hope will arise from this, some things become clear to us. When we look at this last year, there was actually a proposal to close two public health clinics. Both were located in my district. We kept the funding available through this year so that we could examine the problem further. As we did these workshops through King County, I think it was fascinating to all members of the King County council to see how highly public health clinics scored relative to all sorts of other priorities. That helped inform us on making important decisions about the future of our public health clinics. To answer your question, there will probably be a number of things that you will not see on here. We simply cannot do that. We have those materials, and we all do town meetings on various subjects. Just so in you, in June we'll be doing an entire town meeting only on the subject of mental health and the sales tax proposal. For today, we have to be very broad. We just don't have a choice, but by all means go to the town meetings.

R: Thank you.

I'll be brief, but I would like to take the opportunity to urge the counsel members to support Executive Sims' child health initiative that would help to insure at least those 15,000 or 16,000 kids in King County who are covered by health care. About half of them are eligible to be enrolled in programs that are currently in existence. Executive Sims has asked for \$1 million to support that outreach program. The counsel, last October, approved one-quarter million for that. I would like to urge the counsel to please approve the other three-quarter million for that outreach to enroll kids in healthcare programs.

M: Another thing that was mentioned earlier is that we are taping this. All of the comments are captured and will be part of the record. Nothing you say will be lost. We're hearing your comments and they will be recorded and are part of the final report. I want to make sure you understand that.

R: I have a question regarding Public Health. I have some friends who have insurance and who have jobs, but they cannot afford the co-pay or their percentage of payment that their insurance company requires of them. What can we do about this? They aren't going to the doctor. They're going without treatment. Some of them need it. One particular person cannot afford his diabetic supplies. He's working and yet, because of how our insurance companies have been allowed to run their insurance programs, people are paying premiums but they aren't covering enough for these people to have access to healthcare. Something needs to be done about this.

M2: That question is the million-dollar question for all levels of government right now. Our healthcare system is very closely approaching failure. This is my personal opinion. What we can do at the County level is this: we have an extraordinary public health system, but we are struggling to maintain the integrity of the funding for that system. This public health system is the safety net for people who do not have insurance and for people who are under insured in our region. I think that may be the reason why it's being placed so high on the priority list.

M: Let's move to the next category.

OBFMMH - Community & Human Services

M: We have nine programs inside that category: low income housing, a ten-year plan to end homelessness, veterans programs, senior programs, women's programs, work training, youth and family services, the civil rights commission and other services, domestic violence and batterer's treatment. Which of these in this category is your highest priority? What is your second priority? Youth and family services is the top priority here in the room.

Low-income housing, domestic violence, ending homelessness are next, and then it tapers down. Youth and family services is clearly number one. Then there's a whole group of them in the middle. Our workshop priorities were as follows: low income housing on top, and youth and family services second. Again, the same top two but in reversed order. This is what the workshops came up with. Yes?

R: Clarification. If we voted for one thing twice, did that count or not?

M: **No. The computer knows that and will discount the second vote.**

R: I'd like to make a comment. On the ten-year plan to end homelessness, if we don't deal with the mental health issues, especially juveniles and getting them helped, we'll never end homelessness. I have a daughter who is on the streets right now because of mental health issues, and she'll be on the streets until she dies if we don't deal with the mental health issues. I've been fighting for them for two years and have gotten nowhere.

M3: **This gentleman raises a very important point, and that is the interrelatedness of the issues of mental health and chemical dependency and homelessness. The operating budget committee, whose members are here – it's actually the operating budget, fiscal management and mental health committee that is here, because we've actually really focused on the mental health issue and we're having briefings in the budget committee on that. In the course of those briefings, we've had many discussions on the relationship between homeless and mental health and directly to the point you made. In fact, we had a briefing recently when there were two citizens who made up the bulk of the conversation. One was the mother of a woman who suffered from mental illness, and another was a gentleman who has chemical dependency issues. He has been homeless as a result of his chemical dependency issues. We're very much aware of the linkage between homelessness and those issues, and of course the expenses that come with that. When you're treating those folks to provide for housing as well, the County has adopted a ten-year plan for homelessness which all the members here have voted for, but to fund that is a very expensive proposition. We're very aware of that, and there's actually a study going on that will be completed by the first one June. It will be a very detailed report and will help guide the counsel in making decisions on how we can go forward with better funding not only mental health and chemical dependency issues, but also housing for the homeless as well. It's an important point.**

M: **In all of the meetings that we've had, the inter-relationship between these issues has come up. People have talked about the overlap. Part of what makes it difficult to do this exercise is that these things are all related. That sort of comment has come up in every meeting that we've had, so it's very clear that people are seeing those connections. Yes?**

R: We understand that you guys probably get this. We aren't saying that we have to say these things because you don't get it. We know that you get it. It's just that when it's happening to you and it's your kid, it's scary. We all live in the community, and our children live here, too. They're coming into adulthood here and they can be taken care of if the community is willing to put forth that effort. I have a 24 year old. When we was 14, the DCFS worker told me the next time I saw her, she'd be in a body bag – but she's not. She's an assistant manager at Starbucks.

M: Okay. We're going to run out of time, so let's move on to the next category.

OBFMMH – Natural Resources & Environment

M: **There are eight programs in this category: building codes, permits and enforcement; farm land preservation; flood control; habitat conservation; regional parks and open space; regional trails; salmon habitat restoration; and storm water services. Which of those is your highest priority within this category? Second priority? Regional parks and open space, habitat conservation. The rest are pretty even after the first two. Flood control, building codes, farmland, salmon, storm water and regional trails. Pretty even along there. In our workshops, flood control, regional parks, habitat, farmlands, storm water and building codes. Now what we're going to do is take some of the priorities we have been asking you about and regroup them. This will take a minute to build a new chart. Comments?**

R: On the farmland preservation, how do they figure farmland preservation when we a reconciliation act for high-density growth through management out here in King County and Kent? There are four and one-half houses per acre. The question I'm asking is about farmland preservation. Also, on some of these farmlands, they are turning them into condominiums and stuff like that. I'm just making a statement. What good does it do if nothing ever gets done and people vote it down all the time for open space land?

M3: **I'm actually not quite sure that your characterization is an accurate one. In 1979, the voters of King County passed a \$50 million bond that preserved 12,000 acres of farmland in King County that have since been partially turned into agricultural districts in King County. We have four of them, preserving over 42,000 acres. They tend to lay outside the urban growth boundary, so there's another level of protection. Inside the urban growth boundary there are still some areas of protected farmland but they are few and far between. Much of the vacant urban land that you're seeing is being turned into condos or other developed lands, but there are large areas of King County that are still preserved for farming through those efforts.**

- R: I'd like to expand on what I said a little bit earlier. My daughter being on the streets has also been in and out of the juvenile justice system. The amount of money that King County, at this present time, has spent on her would have more than adequately funded the mental health treatment that she needed. Somehow or another we've got to intertwine these two so we're not double spending our money.
- M3: There have been some great comments this evening regarding mental health and it's inter-relationship with the criminal justice system. We went through a budget crisis five or six years ago where we had to cut \$135 million out of our General Fund budget. As we went through that and looked at major categories of expenditures in King County, one of the areas we looked at were the vast amounts of General Fund sums we're spending in our jails and detention systems. We took a substantial cut in the jail. In one year it was \$6 million. We reinvested those dollars into treatment programs and into mechanisms that would keep people out of our jail systems and get them into things like the mental health court system and other treatment programs that we've mentioned before so that they could go on to lead productive lives and also cost the tax payer less by housing people inappropriately in our jails, which is a very expensive proposition. Have we gone far enough? Absolutely not. You are correct to point that out. I just want to let you know that we have done some things to try to turn that tide.**
- M: What we're going to do now is to take the top two priorities from each category and go to the playoff round. These are the top two that you just prioritized from those four categories. Now we're going to go up a level and look at the whole County budget and see how you would prioritize these. Superior & District Courts and Juvenile Services from Law & Justice, Public Health Clinics and Substance Abuse from the Health, Youth & Family Services and Low Income Housing from Community Health, and from Natural Resources and the Environment we have Regional Parks, Open Space and Habitat Conservation. From those eight that we already know are high priority, which would you give the highest priority? You're going to get two. Youth & Family Services, Public Health Clinics, Low Income Housing, Drug & Substance Abuse, Juvenile Services are all up there, but Youth & Family Services the clear leader. There are three levels of categories. We can't compare to the workshops because they had a whole different list. Now, this is General Fund priorities.**

OBFMMH – General Fund Priorities

M: We've got the public health clinics, the elections department, disease prevention, community services, youth, family and senior services, Superior Court and District Courts, and juvenile services. These are General Fund priorities. They go across the categories. Which of these would you give your first priority? And second? Okay. Community services. What's in community services?

R: Youth, family, senior.

M: Okay. Youth and family services is clearly the top priority here. Then public health clinics, juvenile services, disease prevention, Superior and District Court, and then the elections department. As we've been hearing from the comments and seeing in the charts, community youth and family services is clearly a top priority of people at this meeting tonight. That's pretty clear.

OBFMMH – Transit (Non-Riders)

M: We're going to talk about Transit. First we're going to talk about non-riders. If you haven't ridden the bus in the last week, you're a non-rider. The question is which of these ten things might motivate you to ride the bus? Greater bus reliability, greater frequency, express buses, more bus shelters, better security for riders, cleaner buses, fewer transfers, reduced fares, increased park and ride access, and more and different routes. If you're not a bus rider, which of these ten would most likely get you on the bus? Second choice? Greater frequency and more or different routes are the top two. Express buses and fewer transfers. They come more often, they go where I want to go and they don't stop, then you might get on the bus. In our workshops, frequency, express buses, reliability scored high. A little bit different mix from the workshops for the non-riders.

OBFMMH – Transit (Riders)

M: Now for bus riders. If you are a transit rider, here's the same kind of list. Which of these things would make you a happier and more satisfied rider? Greater bus reliability, frequency of buses, express buses, more bus shelters, better security for riders, cleaner buses, fewer transfers, reduced fares, increased park and ride access, or more and different routes. This is just for bus riders. Which of these would make you a more satisfied rider? We have about 14 riders. Number two? Frequency, routes, express buses. A very similar list to the non-riders. They come more frequently, they go where I want to go and I get there faster. Security is a higher priority here, as well as

fewer transfers. In our workshops, frequency was the number one choice. Everything else was pretty even. Frequency is clearly a big factor. Those are the questions that we have for you. We have a few minutes left for comments, and then we'll have a wrap up by our counsel members.

R: I would like to applaud your presentation. I think it was very user-friendly. It was very fun. It wasn't boring. I think it was very educational for some of us who maybe haven't been to a meeting like this before. I want to congratulate you. I think a lot of people don't come to meetings or do new things because they feel like they're going to look stupid or it will be hard or they won't know what they're doing. I think you did an excellent job.

I'm afraid I have to disagree with the last audience comment. I found this a very ineffective way of being able to convey my preferences and concerns to the counsel. How about if we do this more formally? How about if we have one last poll here, a show of hands, with one showing how many people found this an effective way to convey their concerns and interests to the counsel and two, how many people found this an ineffective way of conveying their concerns and interests to the counsel.

M2: We would be glad to do that, but I just want to remind everyone that there are many ways that the public communicates with us. Some of you have called me at 9:00 or 10:00 at night. You come by my office. You send e-mails. You go to public meetings. You choose not to vote or to vote for me. This is just one method that we have to attempt to understand what the public's opinion is. We are very much interested in constructive criticism about how we can do this better. Maybe we'll take a show of hands. Should we continue with a forum like this?

M: We'll vote on our gizmos. The question will be did you find this an effective meeting?

R: I found this to be an educational program for me, so I gained benefit by coming to this. It was fun. But there are two suggestions. There are significant ways we can reduce the burden on the taxpayer and solve some of our problems that I didn't feel like this addressed. For example, if we abolish building height restrictions and make it really easy for people to build high condominiums and apartment housing, that would solve the congestion traffic problem by putting people closer to where they want to be. Second, if we had a helper program in which the government hired helpers at minimum wage because there are so many people unemployed. An employed person has much better mental health than an unemployed person. By having helpers in all of the functions that the government performs, we can provide better services to the people at a lower burden to the taxpayer.

- M:** We have the question up. Did you find this an effective way to have public input or not? It's a simple question. We don't have music for this one. It wasn't pre-planned.
- M2:** For those of you who didn't feel this was a good exercise, I want to encourage you to come forward and make sure your opinion and your questions and your views are heard by us. I want to invite you to call the office tomorrow or approach one of us this evening so that you don't walk away from here feeling like you weren't heard. I think we have time for a couple of more questions from the audience.
- R:** I work for a community health center in King County which also serves the under insured and the uninsured population of King County. In your funding, I would request that you think about increasing access, especially to the high risk patients and the homeless, because in our clinics alone, homeless people that come in for patient care has increased. In Kent alone, every ten people that we see, four are turned away. Those four people have no access to public health clinics anywhere. I would ask that you, either through a grant or through other means, increase public access to clinics – not only public but the community health centers also.
- I have a question. I give you the reason for my question. Do counties actively lobby the State government? With as much interest and enthusiasm that people have for public health clinics, are we actually encouraging the State to develop their healthcare insurance system?
- M2:** Thank you for that question. I want you to know that we are actively, aggressively lobbying the State legislature to provide public health for the State of Washington, a dedicated funding source that we can rely on. It is ridiculous that we have to go to Olympia and lobby for money for something as basic as epidemiology – preventing epidemics. Or for money for something as basic as being able to inspect our restaurants or as basic as being able to provide primary care to the poorest of the poor. Yes, thank you for the question. We have two lobbyists who are aggressively working to get a dedicated funding source. It doesn't look like it happened this year.
- R:** I have a comment. Although it looked like we represented the diversity of our community, I think there are many, many people who aren't represented here in the audience and I thought if you continue to do this, are there other ways of contacting people and encouraging them to come down? You could provide transportation or even childcare. Then you'd have more representatives from the community who really are in desperate need of a listening ear.
- M3:** We're very much aware of that. This is obviously an open public meeting on a weeknight. In the workshops that we did, those were with randomly selected folks. We made sure we had geographic diversity based on class, ethnicity, and a variety of things to make sure that those who attended the

workshops were randomly selected individuals who could weigh in. Then we also didn't want to just have closed meetings. We also wanted to have open meetings where anybody could come and speak to any issue they wanted to. That's why we've had these public meetings as well. We've tried to balance out the importance of getting a true diversity of all folks.

R: The reason I came down tonight was just to plead with you that mental health is desperately under funded. The most important argument for that is the compassion argument; however, I wanted to give you another angle. That is that our under funding of community mental health services is costing us countless, unseen taxpayer dollars with our community services. People are going to hospitals and jails because we don't have the ability to help them. We don't have enough people and the retention for people in this industry just isn't there to deal with the issue. If you fund it more, I guarantee you the cost for social services will go down.

M3: **You're really tugging at my heart strings. The King County counsel will consider this year whether to take a tax vote, a sales tax vote. That money would be dedicated to mental health services. It would raise a significant amount of money. We will be analyzing whether or not to take the tax vote and, if we choose to, how to most effectively invest that money. I think that we know there is a crisis in mental health out there. It is touching so many families. It is touching my family. We have a family member who has a daughter who is suffering from bipolar. Just this year, they didn't know whether she was going to live or die. They had no idea where she was sleeping at night. They didn't know if she was being abused. They couldn't get her into treatment. They couldn't get anyone to help her. So our family because acutely aware of this crisis, and it touches so many of you.**

M3: **I'm not surprised how many folks here tonight are focusing on mental health. I wrote an article recently on this specific issue and the need for better services and more funding for King County for both mental health and chemical dependency issues for those who cycle in and out of our criminal justice system and emergency systems like Harborview. The response from people who wrote to me based on that article spoke frankly and movingly about their personal experiences, like many of you have tonight, with mental health with their family members and friends. It was powerful to me to hear that feedback. I know all members of the counsel feel the same. As I said before, it is literally called the Operating Budget, Fiscal Management and Mental Health Committee. It wasn't called that last year. You have a County counsel that is aware of the issue. We've elevated it so that it is actually part of the title of the budget committee. It's that important to us to consider it. We've already and regular briefings on it this year, and we'll continue to. We'll have a final report on June 1st that will be available by going to the King County web site to access that report.**

R: I want to thank you for sharing that personal story. It touched me. It touched me because I know how that woman feels. My daughter is on the streets today. Last April, we had to take her to Boise, Idaho where the age of consent is 18, and spend \$6,385.00 for two weeks worth of mental health care that my insurance company did not pay for. We have one youth shelter in all of King County called Skies. They are funded by United Way, King County and a couple of other people. My daughter was kind of mouthy when she went in there. She was having an episode. They told her to leave the next time and told me, in writing, that she was never allowed there again because she pissed them off. So, I say to you, we have one youth shelter and if you make a mistake – because in their viewpoint you have to be perfect to go there – then you can never go there again. My other question is actually directed to Bob and Larry. I recently read the article you spoke of. I would like to know if you could tell me what does placing a union for healthcare have to do with a percent of sales tax? I think it was one-tenth of one percent of the sales tax. I don't know how that relates. I 'm confused about that.

M3: There is a dispute between a labor organization and mental health providers on a labor issue. The question goes to how does that impact whether or not the King County counsel would support the mental health sales tax. The answer would be involved. All I can tell you is this: As chair of the committee, we are moving forward with our hearings, our work product, and the plan and meeting that is coming in June to make that report public, and to further our discussion on this. From my standpoint, I'm not engaged with the labor issue. That's being worked out between the labor organization and the mental health providers. My role as a counsel member is not to control that. All I can control that is moving forward in the budget and mental health committee with hearings on this and putting together a report that will help inform us on the best way to improve those services. I don't have any control over that labor issue. That's my personal view on it.

R: Is it going to be put to a vote this year, or is going to be pushed off to next year?

M3: We can't answer that today. The entire King County counsel isn't here. We understand what you want us to do. That has been made very loud and clear.

R: A lot of things that have been talked about here tonight, really everything, has had to do with funding. I've been involved in some activities where I went to Olympia and participated in legislative action days and did some lobbying with some other groups. In the course of that, I testified in some of the committee hearings. Some of what I witnessed was very disturbing. I would encourage everybody here whenever they had an opportunity to go to those committee hearings. The public is welcomed. Some of what a few of our legislatures say made me want to jump across the table and choke some people. Of course I didn't, but that's the emotion I had. I lobbied this year on a number of healthcare

related issues, not just mental health issues. One of the reasons a particular legislature in one committee hearing gave for not supporting this funding was that it might be bad for the insurance companies and they might leave our State. That would be bad for the public. He actually said that

R: I would like to encourage all of you and the counsel as well to recognize the importance of early intervention and partnership with the schools. I've worked in public education and have long been an advocate of bringing the kinds of services that we're talking about into the school house and working with families at an early age, doing much more preventive work. I just offer that as an important challenge.

I'm an advocate of changing our tax code. I'm against taxing good things like owning property and buying things on the market and income. I'd like to see more taxation of sin taxes like alcohol, gasoline and ways you can diminish the use of things we don't want to use as much of and get as much tax value out of it as we can.

I would like to say that I'm glad you had this public forum. I'm just now getting involved in any of this kind of thing. I just appreciate being able to voice my opinion about some things that go on in government.

I was looking at the allocation of the General Funding expenditures and wondering what kind of degrees of freedom you have to move the percentages of the allocations around from Law, Safety & Justice into Health & Human Services for instance?

M2: We have a significant amount of latitude to move money within the General Fund. If you want to talk more about how we prioritize that, come on up and we'll talk more about that. I just want to say to South King County that you folks were a great audience. We've had these meetings all over the County. Your questions were fantastic. You've spoken very clearly with regard to the issue that is very dear to your heart, which is mental health. I also want to complement you and thank you for coming out this evening to involve yourself in your government. Thank you very much. We're going to shut the meeting off at this point.

END OF REPORT...

ONLINE SURVEY COMMENTS

King County Budget Workshops

Online Survey

March 22-April 12, 2007

REASONS FOR LAW, SAFETY & JUSTICE PRIORITIES

Superior and District Courts

This is tough to prioritize: I would think a well crafted emergency plan is essential and must be maintained as a top priority, though I recognize that funding for courts and sheriff's office require more ongoing support.

Courts are more effective if they can have some specialization in separate areas, i.e., Mental Health Court. Would like to see more PREVENTIVE programs for kids (and adults) who end up in jail. We're not fixing the problem of crowded jails by building more jails.

Jail is not the only answer for problem citizens. Treatment programs are better when appropriate. Emergency preparedness needs to take care of the needs of the old, the poor, the very young, and disabled people.

I don't know much about how these areas are broken down.

Law enforcement seems to be doing a good job finding criminals and jailing them. I believe a more smoothly functioning court system, with adequate staffing, will reduce jail over crowding and deliver better sentencing. Emergency management may become a number 1 problem. All of us were disappointed by the utility and government response following the November wind/rain storm. I think we can be much better prepared!

I would be happy to see my tax dollars go to pay for these: Court system staffing should be increased and the process should be streamlined to get people through the system faster. Record systems should be coordinated. The use of parole should be far more limited. Jail capacity should be increased to handle the appropriate volume convictions. Convicted people should not be turned away from jails because they lack capacity.

I don't understand the question. What are the 'programs under Law, Safety and Justice'? I would like to see current laws enforced, and probably strengthened to protect law abiding citizens. I would like Judges to follow the laws, law enforcement to have the tools they need to do their jobs. Take politics out of the issue.

Helping break the cycle of addiction and recidivism is important to create a healthy community.

Very hard to prioritize among these programs

People, seniors, working poor, families are falling through the cracks under stress of inadequate/overpriced childcare, medical care, low/no sources of outlet and are showing

up in increasing numbers as people without resources, people with mental issues, people wandering the street, people angry and reaching out in all the wrong ways, people taking their frustrations out on others.

Mental health, family law, therapy, and drug rehab are critical needs. If we don't spend our money on these issues we undoubtedly will spend them in the long run on more room in our jails and corrections facilities, on emergency management, and the sheriff's dept.

Our jails are full of people who wouldn't be there if we adequately addressed their mental health needs and/or drug use/addiction.

Mandating participation in rehabilitation projects with adequate funding is essential to ensure the health of our society.

Emergency preparedness should be shared with public health and human services

Again, SUSTAINABILITY should guide our decisions regarding this topic, PREVENTION of crime is KEY. PREVENTION of crime and PREPAREDNESS for emergencies, natural and manmade, should guide us in these programs. I would like to see MORE community service used for NON-violent crimes and for those who commit those crimes to NOT be thrown in with those committed of violent crimes. The criminal system in this country is actually part of the problem for perpetuating violence and other crime. Just like the American 'war on terror' actually perpetuates more terrorism just by its use of violence and fear-mongering. We must get to root causes and throw out our old paradigms for 'controlling' crime which are not working.

In view of the violence we are experiencing these days could our systems consider using the tools that are available in Mental Health area to determine if some of these violent activity might be analyzed and applied to individuals who need help then hopefully reduce and or eliminate that behavior. Hopefully, Safety Training and Safety Inspections could be practiced on a frequent basis to help people become more aware of what to do in an emergency.

Increased policing and incarceration is a temporary fix for embedded social problems like poverty, inequality, and lack of attractive educational and occupational options. Some policing is necessary, of course, but let's do it in a way that supports our communities instead of punishing them and tearing them apart.

Of course the Sheriff's Dept requires careful, continuing, and close scrutiny, especially in light of repeated evidence of corrupt practices. And we will not solve the jail and community corrections systems until we address and solve the factors that contribute to deviance and violence, which hinge upon economic facts such as the ability to find a job paying a livable wage that enables folks to meet their basic necessities. Outsourcing and downsizing of jobs contributes to crime and deviance, as down the sharp decline in basic resources, which once were the basis for jobs for those without adequate training and education. Thus, planting harvestable timber, cleaning up our waterways so that salmon and other fish thrive, and recycling everything possible are means to provide jobs.

Real need for free/low cost mental health services

We need to have systems in place to best deal with those who have mental illnesses.

To many of the people on the street have mental health problems which are not being taken care off. In recent months there have been court rulings against police departments for unlawful arrests, unnecessary brutality etc. The Sheriff's department needs to change the way they re-act in situations where they now think it is ok to shoot, faze, or tase a suspect. The also need lessons in safer crowd control

I wish the local police would help my parents more -- like when my sister is out of control and the cops refused to take her to the CRC @ Spruce Street!

We need to work on crowding in our corrections system -- prevention, diversion, treatment, etc.

The King County Jail is under funded, overcrowded and lacks a decent health care system.

I work with an organization that deals with individuals that have or do drug/alcohol activity....they need help & direction...they need to be trained for jobs. We need to know what to do in an emergency like an earth quake, an attack like Sept. 11th, or any other type of tragedy that could & has occurred in other places. The more prepared we are to take care of the issues the better off we are.

We need to be able to manage the criminal population and provide a way to get them out of that cycle. It does no good to have a large police force to arrest people if we are not prepared to handle them past that point.

Mental health for those who have little income or access to coverage is vital. And as recent news reports the jails and prisons are overflowing, folks are not getting much rehab and the system is put in a position to let people out early due to crowding.

Mental health services, community outreach, housing are sorely lacking funding. These citizens use a great amount of county resources thru emergency care. Prevention is far more cost-effective.

Mental health services need to be a priority.

No comments; it is obvious to see the effects of the first two that will again ease the work for the other two.

More county sheriffs could help with Emergency Management and job share with Corrections.

1.mental health 2.family law 3.therapeutic 4.civil 5.criminal 6.drug

Perpetrators in Domestic Violence crimes should serve the entire term that they have been convicted.

Mental health care is severely lacking.

If I could have two #1 priorities, they would both be there; without support from the courts, law enforcement cannot work well. Without support from the sheriff's department, the courts would have little to do.

Increasing funding for treating mental health issues (which affect the vast majority of the county's jail population, homeless population, etc.) is critical. Ensuring that there are adequate resources for inmates to transition into treatment/services is also very important.

Not very informed in this area but seems that priority is to maintain order (Sheriff's dept) and offer support to people with problems (mental, family disputes) and so on.

use the money on prevention and education, especially in the schools

If we provided more support to people, they wouldn't wind up in jail. Supporting our schools and mental health support would really help to keep people avoid jail.

Far too many people were affected by the wind storm and the consequent power outages. They had no heat, lights or way to cook. In spite of the power company working so hard, 24/7, it took weeks to restore power. We need to be better prepared, individually and collectively. Classes need to be offered by government agencies, like fire & police dept.

See earlier comments - prevention is the key. Locking people up is too expensive and hopeless. These people need help when they are little.

I have attended mental health court on behalf of a client with a Least Restrictive Order. It was crowded, overloaded, and, finally, just a joke because after waiting for 4 hours, we did not see a judge and the decision was left to me whether to continue inpatient or not. They even asked if I would assess my client over the phone for them. Over the phone?? What part of mental health care do they not understand that this is totally inappropriate and unethical?

The Mentally Ill, like climate change, require attention to detail to avert an emotional paralysis in the face of difficult realities

The court system needs to become a positive change agent in people's lives. We need to plan for both natural and global warming related disasters, as they are now inevitable.

Better mental health coverage, and better salaries for those who provide mental health services will predict improvements in all other budget categories, incl. law, safety, and justice. We need fully functioning citizens to bring forth the best future for our county. Thank you!

Mental Health attention as an important aspect of addressing the root of the problems.

Serving persons with mental illness is a priority for me.

I see first hand every day the need for increased funding to the mental health system. Focusing on this community seems like a preventive measure to keeping clients out of the jail and hospital system which is costly for the community.

The listing on the courts is confusing. It makes it look like Mental Health is a subset of the courts.

Mental Health should be number one.

The various diversion courts go a long way in helping populations stay out of the more traditional legal system and effect real change for our community. And we need a strong sheriff's department for safety.

Again mental health issues don't go away. Government needs to take a pro-active role in working with agencies that are supporting mental health programs

As stated previously, mental health is a TOP priority to be taking care of in WA. state. Therapeutic and drug issues needs are a big issue as well. Companies need to be more aware of backgrounds of those they hire and safety of citizens needs to be a priority after the recent rash of killings.

Tough decisions but logically I think we need to have programs in place to help people. Without help, people in need often progress to ill health and crime. Also, when we are prepared for emergencies, we can be better prepared for the lesser problems as well.

Mental Health priority #1

I believe that rehabilitation and treatment should be a number one focus when considering law, safety, and justice as a large majority of people coming in to the criminal justice system have mental health and chemical dependency issues, not to mention that they are affected by numerous socio-economic factors, which if they were helped to overcome they would be less likely to re-offend.

It is extremely difficult to assist the mentally ill clients who are psychotic because of the strict laws. Before a mental health professional is able to assist a client who is psychotic, that client has to actually do bodily harm to himself and/or others and has to be severely, gravely disabled. I would like to see the laws protect the mentally ill and assist their families with getting help sooner rather than later when the client has already harmed others, himself, and after he is so severely disabled that he is unable to care for himself. it costs the county and state much more money if not taken care of sooner rather than later.

It is critical that the county fund programs that treat people with mental health concerns instead of just punishing them

Mental health is imperative.

We are parents of a Autistic, Bi-polar, Psychosis (nos), and loving 19 yr old son. We have had to make the tough decision to place him out of our home @ 18 yrs old because of having to choose over his possibly losing funding and supports if monitored in our/the home he grew up in. It seems sad that we could provide 'his one loving environment' but he would loose all community supports if he lived in our home. With an increase in .01% sales tax, our son could received the same supports that required less support '\$'s' for living on our premises w/minimal caretaker monitoring.

Again, it is time to address mental health system related to legal system and homelessness and Non-Medicaid clients.

We must attend to the needs of the mentally ill in our community, so we are not incarcerating the mentally ill, due to lack of adequate services due to lack of adequate funds. Incarceration does not provide the mentally ill with the treatment that they are entitled to. Furthermore, releasing the mentally ill back into the community with minimal to no resources, would result in a high likelihood of being incarcerated again. There has been and sadly, there will be more cases of where the mentally ill individual did not receive the treatment that he/she needs, where such a scenario has led to compromising safety and security of our community. This needs immediate attention. Let's not wait until others are victimized by our inaction.

I would like to see the .1% sales tax passed to support mental health and chemical dependency services, in part to keep people out of the justice system.

There is a great need for developing other alternatives rather than incarcerating those with mental health and drug abuse problems. More and better staffed facilities in both of these areas are needed. For those who have been incarcerated, transition programs are needed to assist them in successfully becoming self-sufficient and productive community members.

I see jails and corrections as part of Courts, law, etc. The whole needs attention to priorities and who to hold, who to treat but not hold...This is I think hopeful thinking. The key word is I want 'RESPONSIBLE PARTIES IN POSITIONS of power, not what we see in the headlines!

The winter storms brought a lot of attention to how much emergency preparedness needs to be addressed!

Wed need a safe community with fair, impartial, and speedy courts and rapid attention.

I believe providing competent Judicial Officials at every level of the court system is imperative to ensure a fair and equitable administration and application of the law. I also believe access to legal services is a very important part of ensuring everyone is given an opportunity to be represented regardless of their circumstances. Too often the Justice System only benefits the rich, not necessarily the innocent, or those most in need. As far as the #2 priority, I believe the Jails and Community Corrections Systems, it is my belief that overcrowding and sanitation continue to be a challenge. Improvements in these areas possibly might help both the staff and inmates?

If mental health issues are dealt with earlier, that will save money in the long run and help keep people out of jails or detention centers, as well as increase their mental health.

As a Mental Health Clinician working in a program designed to help reduce recidivism of inmates, suffering from both a mental health condition and chemical dependency issues, whom are slated for release back into the community (This is the START Program at SMH.)Increasing operational funds for these services would make a significant difference in the overall positive outcomes of such a project.

If the mental health system were better funded it would save a great amount of money in the jails since they are being used as mental health wards do to lack of mental health funding.

I would like Mental Health to be a priority in the budget.

Most of the offenders that are mentally ill are not in treatment while in prison. As a people who want safe communities, we need the courts to focus on the offenders needs to obtain success the end the revolving door back to prison.

Emergency Preparedness/Management

Emergencies happen and we need to be prepared. I am most concerned about the vulnerable, children and elders, and others that are incapacitated. I hope that we do not forget, and focus on highly functional persons those who need advocates to speak out on their behalf.

It is difficult to pick one over the other because emergency preparedness is so important with all the potential pan flu issues as well as natural disasters and the threat of bio-warfare.

This region is likely to have a major crises perhaps in the form of an earthquake. We need to be more prepared.

Jails and community corrections are filled with corruption and band-aid solutions. until the federal government changes the culture of our corrections programs, we can't do anything about it. I'd rather concentrate on emergency preparedness and management - working with senior services, it is obvious who the people are that get left behind, and it would make me angry if Seattle/ King county treated the elderly here like they did in New Orleans during the Katrina disaster.

We need to be ready for a man-made or natural disaster. This is mandatory in my book. We have more and more individuals with mental health issues in all walks of life, young and old. We need stronger families and massive improvements in our foster care system and in families experiencing drug/alcohol use and any sort of physical or mental violence and intimidation. These families often end up having experiences with our legal system which can mandate and audit program attendance. Programs would only be operated by agencies that could display a proven track record in these areas of treatment.

After the winter storms it was evident that we are not fully prepared for a major emergency in our area. Jails and Community Corrections should be prioritized for program assistance. Especially the 'corrections' element. We need to find alternatives to jail time and support programs that offer real rehabilitation.

You failed the last test in rural areas(Wind Storm 2006)

Knowing that a catastrophic earthquake may happen here in our lifetimes, its very important to plan for this possibility.

We need to focus on rehabilitation of criminals, not just incarceration. I believe that the way an individual is treated when they enter the justice system - especially juveniles - can determine if they re-offend. Caring judges who have time to hear a criminal case can be the first step in rehabilitation.

Way too much money spent on this, way too many people locked up, way too much money spent on ineffective uneconomic drug law enforcement, not enough real emergency planning and family law/therapeutic.

In preparing for emergencies you are sure to improve the current situation in all areas. Prep isn't just on paper. It's improving the systems and processes that exist in non-emergencies so that the transition is as seamless and rapid as possible.

Emergency preparedness doesn't address people with ambulatory needs enough. There should be more of a look at that for people who can't get around so good to utilize the plans already in place. Secondly...the civil laws that are in place are sufficient enough...but don't leave room for drastic situations. If our laws were written to protect that lady who was killed at the U. of W. campus recently...she may have been saved. But no attempt to do anything before the actual act was committed was made. Please do something so that we don't have to wait until an actual physical contact is made before the law will step in.

Jails and Community Corrections

I already touched on this #1 priority in my previous comment. On my #2 priority our criminal justice system needs a much needed overhaul. Victims and their families have to go through many loopholes while the criminals seem to have it much easier. Cases in point: the alleged gunman in the Jewish Center shooting had his lawyers get more time to prepare their defense. The widow of that Seattle police officer must face her accuser once more because of some technicality in the original trial. The officer was shot by this hoodlum some years ago!

We're too lax when someone breaks the law. Compared to cities of similar size in Europe, Seattle doesn't have the same feeling of safety. King County can be an example to the rest of the country with leading edge technology to catch the criminal, and once caught, keep them incarcerated to serve the full sentence. Possibly negotiation with less affluent parts of the State, or even other states, would be beneficial in creating more space for prisoners.

Public safety is a function of government. Mental health is a personal problem, not the governments or taxpayers. The sheriffs department is part of community corrections.

We need better reentry programs

we need to keep in place sentence guide lines so judges can not let convicted persons go free. we need to also assure when you get a sentence for a crime there is enough jail space so we can lock up convicted people. We do not need the Governor letting criminals out of jail early.

We need to have programs that meet the needs of different groups that come into the courts in a way that supports their successful functioning in the community

I'm very tired of criminals getting off 'scott free' or with very little punishment. I've almost given up on the court system and our laws. So, give the jailors and the Sheriff more support since the laws are too lenient!

Sheriff's Department

Please see previous comments. Ultimately public safety and emergency response (fire, EMS) top my list as the most important issues facing our County. This means more cops on the street and keeping convicted felons behind bars.

What need to keep criminal in jail.

I feel that the Sheriff's Department is under funded and that public safety should be the top priority for the county.

Police officers on the streets PREVENTING crime is the #1 priority. Just having a police presence in higher crime areas can prevent a lot of crime. Crimes also need to be re-prioritized to focus on PROPERTY crimes. Police resources should NOT BE SPENT on investigating prostitutes on Craigslist or making sure strippers stay 4 feet away from customers. Re-assign or re-train vice officers to focus on cleaning up the streets and catching vehicle thieves.

We must get the drug problem, especially meth, solved.

Trick question? First, Law enforcement, courts and jails in the bigger picture are one and the same. While Preparedness is good, it is always an unknown.

Some money spent now on emergency preparedness can save a lot when the next disaster occurs.

All of these are important, but if we don't have a good Sheriff's department, we do not have law and order. We need our court system, but now with Al Qaeda wanting to destroy us, we need to have emergency preparedness management. We sure can't do without our jails and community corrections.

The Sheriff's Dept needs more officers, more hours, and more funding. Corrections is seriously hurting for more beds and more committed staff.

*In general, public safety is a primary purpose of government and my opinion, the first priority. All these have higher priority other social programs. I would put Superior Courts as a high priority, but I see mental health in a different category than the other items in this list and I am not sure what is meant by Therapeutic. What is being done about the Asian Bird Flu threat. I was at a national meeting where the feds are suggesting 30% of the population could be lost if the turns into a human transmitted flu
Emergency preparedness: Is the Road, Woodinville Duvall designated as an exit route out of the metro king county? My understanding is it is? If that is so, why did it take the county 6 days to make this road passable during the wind storm before Christmas, 2006*

The question is moot . Give me specifics to choose from if you want a valid answer. It looks like the people responsible for this survey could not be professional survey creators. There is nothing to be gained by answering these priorities.

There is no hope of any law enforcement in rural King County. It's the wild west out there. I've heard there is a deputy to population ratio of 1:100000. The only time I see a sheriff's car is when there is a public outcry or something has actually occurred that they must respond to. The situation is dangerous and people are actually dying on the roads because of it.

stop corruption with sunshine into the department.

REASONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

Public Health Clinics

These services provide essential safety net services

Flu/emergency response and immunizations are also very important.

The health and well-being of the general populace is a benefit to people coming in contact with each other. With a growing older population, the access to immunizations, such as flu and pneumonia, is an increasing need.

Again, I don't know what the 'programs under Public Health' are: Public Health Clinics would eliminate the need for ER facilities, and immunization programs could reduce the reoccurrence of diseases thought to have been eradicated 25 years ago.

The monies squandered on that meaningless advisory vote only on what should be done to the Alaskan Way viaduct and changing the logo of King County would have gone a long way into public health clinics and drugs and substance abuse treatment programs.

These are all critical areas!

Public Health Clinics should encompass Drug and Substance Abuse, and Immunizations

Although I would say that access to healthcare is my number one priority, including the reimbursement for facilities providing care beyond the public health clinics, this was not an option above, so I picked the best of the 4 I was limited to.

Health care should be available for all citizens. Until we have universal medical insurance we need good free clinics including dental clinics. There should be enough treatment spots so that people can be enrolled when they are ready.

Public Health services in the clinics and centers is very important. With out those, the most needy in the community could not receive the care they need.

Through the public health clinics families should be able to access birth and postpartum doula care. Again, the supported mom, baby and family in during labor and birth and in the early days of having a new baby at home are vital and have lasting affects.

Pandemic flu is should not be a county issue as it is an unpreventable issue(like global warming) and the county would be better off leaving it to other higher and larger agencies(CDC). Focus on public health. Those who have limited resources would be better served by this. Drug and Sub abuse programs would be better serve by education prior to the necessity of treatment.

If the Senior Citizen or other members of society do not have much money for medical, the Public Health Clinics need to be available to them.

I've given up on the drug treatment programs. So, take care of the people who want to take care of themselves, and the general public by making health clinics available to the low income families, and keep the population safe from pandemics.

Seniors are the #1 priority for us

My first priority is very clear.

Clinics are a lifeline for many people. We need more, not fewer of them. Drug and substance treatment will go a long way to help homeless people and low income working poor. Immunization programs are ok, but the Pandemic Flu seems to be over hyped by the drug manufacturers.

Too many people have no health insurance and need free clinics. Immunization programs are essential, particularly to immigrants.

Health care is a human right.

I do not have health insurance through my employer and the public health clinic I go to is over-crowded and under funded.

Public health clinics can provide a huge savings overall for healthcare because of the high cost of emergency services.

Serious lack of decent medical care for the poor...we certainly don't need to close more clinics! And Drug TX is very important to give folks a good chance to turn their lives around...not doing so affects us all.

emphasis on mental health services.

Public health clinics need to be funded so that the public does not pay - for instance more than \$15.00 fee. A healthy nation is a prosperous nation, this should be top of our priority. Examples should be sought from such countries as the United Kingdom.

I would really prioritize preventative care in public health clinics, as they are strongly associated with a healthy community. and generally, public health clinics are hard to find, difficult to trust, and too bureaucratic for most people.

People who need to know never access the system, thus they don't know until it is often too late.

Public Health Clinics is the key to all services for all people.

Is it wise to wait and think we are prepared?

In order to give these immunizations we have to have clinics to give them at...We need to have these public clinics to give mental patients their meds., and so on. Immunization Programs will help cut down on the amount of diseases that are being introduced to this country or reintroduced to this country from immigrants coming here who have not had the proper immunizations...we can help these immigrants as well as ourselves...Therefore everyone comes out a winner.

Through the public health clinics families should be able to access birth and postpartum doula care. Again, the supported mom, baby and family in during labor and birth and in the early days of having a new baby at home are vital and have lasting affects.

Immunizations should be provided in the public health clinics that can be easily accessed by everyone in the county.

Access to public health often an obstacle to people; more public outreach and education to help people understand the importance of their health (physical and mental)

too many people do not have health care coverage and must rely on the clinic system to meet their needs.

It is absolutely necessary to fully fund Public Health clinics, and to do so in such a way that this funding is stable and secure. Public Health clinics can and should provide immunization for those lacking health insurance. The public health system should provide for a response to pandemics of various kinds such as flu.

Public health should include all of the above. It doesn't make sense to not have one without the others.

thank you

It should go without saying. Basic needs are most important.

tough choice as I am very strong about immunizations but feel some of the support for them should come from the state level with administration coordinated by the Public Health Clinics. Drug and Substance Abuse is sadly inadequate at all levels and causes such great repercussions in families, safety, and crime.

ALL are important

All people no matter what their income is has a right to health care. Thus, clinics need to be there to serve this population. Drug and Substance Abuse Treatment needs to be more accessible for those with a limited income. Waiting lists for treatment only prolongs people able to get help with they need it.

There are many people who are on the fringes of society and making services, and the health care delivery system in the United States is fundamentally flawed. Too many people cannot afford health care.

more education for self help

that's a difficult one to prioritize. My one and two issues have the greatest impact, I feel on the community at large

Those who can't afford insurance need to be able to have some type of help. Insurance has become unbelievably expensive and what it provides is a sham in many cases. Treatment centers need to be affordable to those in need of these services. If they are outrageously priced no one who needs them can afford them.

Mental Health Agencies struggle with chronic mentally ill who are addicted to illicit drugs because of their attempt to self-medicate as a result of not being able to afford any care for their illness. And, with the county's change in using the tier benefit to assist Medicare (SSA and SSDI) clients with their spend-down, the county is going to see an even larger percent of the mentally ill clients in hospitals, jails, Adult Family Homes, and in group homes because of this drastic financial change in services to the Medicare recipients. It is also important to offer Co-Occurring Drug Treatment to the community assisting with their addiction because of the attempts to self-medicate.

We are parents of an Autistic, Bi-polar, Psychosis (nos), and loving 19 yr old son. We have had to make the tough decision to place him out of our home @ 18 yrs old because of having to choose over his possibly losing funding and supports if monitored in our/the home he grew up in. It seems sad that we could provide 'his one loving environment' but he would lose all community supports if he lived in our home. With an increase in .01% sales tax, our son could receive the same supports that required less support '\$'s'

for living on our premises w/minimal caretaker monitoring.

Increase public awareness and early detention of health issues, will decrease the amount of time and money that is needed when these issues become a crisis.

Please refer back to the previous comments section.

In providing more than adequate Public Health care, including primary care, to the vulnerable populations that will be impacted by not only the good old day-to-day scourges but also the emergency ones; our safety net is tightened and in a state of consistent and constant monitoring. So those outbreaks, increases, and pandemics can be caught early and the emergencies prevented! I'd say that Mental Health Care should be on here too at least as #3.

Public Health Clinics are imperative for those who are low income earners. They must be available for people to utilize. It's also very important to note that Public health clinics also help clients with resources to other services. This is so important and critical to those who don't know where to go. Second priority is to make sure that ALL people have access to immunizations needed, regardless to the income levels, which by-the-way can be handled at the public health clinics for the majority of people in our state.

There needs to be a major focus on substance abuse treatment--especially meth. So many of the other issues that arise stem from substance abuse--all kinds of crime (DV, theft, violent crime, ID theft), health issues, community health, homelessness, public safety, etc.

Each category is vital; it was hard to rank these.

People will generally stay well, given the opportunity and those who avoid to use those services are likely in need of help anyway.

This is a tough choice. My bias is to support the population that is healthier, and more resilient, to disease already, by providing more ongoing health services. Although drug and alcohol are very difficult problems, I worry about wasting money on problems and diseases that have low success rate for treatment.

Mental Health Services included!

Until we have a universal type of health care system in our state and country, we need public health to remain the safety net for people without health coverage. Drug and substance abuse treatment as well as prevention programs are absolutely needed so we can get past this stage in history where people are so detrimental to themselves.

Public Health, not free doctors and personal care!

TOUGH CHOICE! DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT IS VERY CRITICAL

Drug and Substance Abuse Treatment

People with substance abuse problems end up using a disproportionate of health and criminal justice resources. Treatment on demand would do much to help stop recidivism and child abuse.

Question: Why do druggies take drugs? Answer: you don't know or your solutions would make sense. Ask a former junkie why.

Statistics are showing that drug related crime is our largest policing problem. We need ways to get drug/substance dependent people into programs that will clean them up. General immunization will help us maintain a healthy population.

More emphasis needs to be placed on drug and substance abuse - too many young people have the attitude that drugs and alcohol are 'ok' and that's a problem that the county isn't addressing very well.

Drug abuse is the number one factor in negatively impacting an individual's ability to maintain employment and is a catalyst in their dependence on the social welfare system. More treatment programs and support would greatly improve the lives of many destitute individuals.

Drug and substance abuse treatment is Critical for the future of our communities!!! Public health centers should include plans for immunizations and flu preparation.

Many people are hurting due to drug addiction. And the psychological pain endured during childhood by many has led to their drug addiction. The majority of crimes are committed by those who are addicted to various drugs, especially crystal meth, etc. to support their habits, so it is very important to deal with this critical problem of drug & substance abuse. And the problem with prescription drugs is more insidious and prevalent than most Americans acknowledge. People need help.

As a partner in the public health network, I know that no human can fully contribute to their society with a drug and substance abuse problem. They must get help and get clean before they can move forward.

Please fund more substance abuse and mental health services by passing the 1/10th. tax soon!

Willy Sutton when asked why he robbed banks said because that's where the money is. The 'problem' in the county appears to be with the large number of drug/substance abusers and those without any form of health insurance, although, to be frank, many of these in this county elect not to purchase any such insurance when they can afford to do so. These folks should not get a free ride and should be charged on their ability to pay.

Chemical dependency treatment is vital!

People with substance abuse issues, who cannot be on Medicaid, who do not have any resource for treatment. It is not only their life issue but also public safety issue that KC needs to address.

Drug and Substance Abuse Treatment clearly is the single biggest challenge. It seems that younger and younger people are turning to drugs, alcohol, and other substances that affect not only their lives, but the lives of their families and the communities around them. Older abusers also seem to continue to be unable to receive or unwilling to pursue treatment. When you consider the ramifications of abuses in these areas there are direct links to crime and deaths. As far as priority #2 Public Health I feel it is important to provide higher levels and better quality of services in this area. Although homelessness numbers seem to be leveling off, health services to seniors has not been receiving the

attention it should. More emphasis in both of these areas seems to be needed.

If we have more drug and substance abuse treatment, perhaps, we'd have less incarceration.

Drug and substance abuse treatment will help keep people functional and out of jail. Mental health support will also.

Prevention and treatment has been shown to be effective in addressing the issues of drug and substance abuse, but such interventions and treatments require adequate funding, Let's make sure that adequate funding for such services is available, so the overall safety of our community is not compromised by lack of services for those individuals who most need it.

to many legal resident in the county, that don't have health insurance and they need the service. As a community we have to many people in jail for drug related problem.

Critical.

People experiencing chemical dependency issues need therapeutic services and treatment, not jail time. Asian/pandemic flues are looming on the horizon and we need to be prepared to deal with the crisis.

Too many people are put in jail when they have a problem with drugs or alcohol. These people need treatment not jail time.

Immunization Programs

Keeping adequate supplies of flu and other important vaccines are critical. Drug and substance abuse account for much of societies problems (homelessness, crime, domestic violence, health) and should be an important issue. Also important is uninsured access to basic health care. Public Health clinics may be more efficiently and effectively done by private industry. The County should consider addressing the cost and possibly outsource these important functions to private industry which specialize in these functions. County health clinics are very costly to run and may not be the best mechanism to deliver these important services.

It is not the responsibility of the government nor the taxpayer to pay for others health services or drug abuses.

The people fear public immunization because it invades their privacy and their rights and yet they will take and make street drugs. The next major population depletion will start in the high density populated areas (cities) and it will probably be due to lack of immunization and spread by sharing of counter cultural habits like drug abuse.

Pandemic Flu Preparation and Response

Pandemic flu should be part of general disaster preparation - not a special budget priority. As for drug and substance abuse treatment, I think we probably waste money coddling addicts. Arrest them and give them a choice between long jail sentences in jails where drugs aren't available - or shorter sentences in work camps where they're

employed on transportation and other projects to pay their keep.

I THINK PANDEMIC FLU WORK SHOULD BE DONE WITHIN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

All are important

It's not if, it's when. Continue your research and planning.

Hard to choose in this under funded category. I know we are totally unprepared for a pandemic flu (my dead grandma told me stories about kids playing in coffins then and what it was like back East). We need to stop spending money on jailing drug users (except major dealers/pushers) and start using effective money on getting people back in the mainstream. Health clinics are necessary, as are immunization programs, especially the new ones for girls.

Would like to see the gov facilitate the private market segment to take on as many of these issues. Once again, can the private sector delivery a lower cost benefit to the user than the public sector. Remember, tax dollars are the fruits of individuals labors Churches, volunteer organizations, individuals Atheist volunteer organizations and others.

REASONS FOR COMMUNITY, HUMAN SERVICES PRIORITIES

Low Income Housing

Every human being living in America need a place to call their own. In America, our resources should include people who live here, to have a better life.

For me the low incoming housing and 10-year plan are one in the same. How will we eliminate homelessness unless we increase our stock of low-income housing? Economic security, through adequate and affordable housing and employability in family wage jobs reduce the need for youth and family services because family stress is reduced.

There really is a need for low income housing in our area. I support any properly guided effort to supply more low-income housing. Work training will help people gain employment, gain self-respect and become self-reliant. It works!

I see low income housing and the 10 year plan to end homelessness as being related. All of the areas listed above are very important.

Every day more and more fixed and low income families living in their own homes or renting in affordable areas within the county are being squeezed out by developers who build expensive homes and condominiums. I would like to see the county work with these developers to create affordable housing instead of displacing these people. Work training programs can direct school dropouts into jobs that can produce meaningful income in stead of relying on jobs that pay minimum wage for employees with little educational qualifications.

Until the 10 year plan is working we must care for those who have no homes BUT without sufficient low income housing how can the 10 year plan work?

As a former resident and recipient of low-income housing assistance, I think that the low-income housing system is in sore need of reform.

...FOR THE SENIOR POPULATION!!!!

Homeless YOUTH need to be accounted for in the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. They are a very different population than homeless adults. There is not enough housing at this time for under 18 homeless youth, and we also need more for the 18-25 age bracket.

Low income housing would help in reducing homelessness. SOME people actually prefer to be on the street (I've heard them say it!) so, help low income folks who WANT to be helped with low income housing. Then, assisting youth and families now will make future homelessness less of a problem.

Not enough, Costs of rentals outpacing income. Displacement not equitable to availability. Push people out of prime areas in the interest of overdevelopment while those pushed out get shoved into substandard, marginal housing units that don't last and offer poor/discriminatory management.

This is a tough choice! Low income housing is a huge concern since housing costs are driving ethnic and economic diversity to the fringes of Seattle. Family services, especially services for seniors, will become even more important in the next ten years as

the baby boomers head into retirement.

Making sure people have a place to live and support for their families, from infants to our seniors, will only make for a healthier environment for everyone.

People being able to have affordable housing is paramount and then be able to get them into training opportunities to be able to move beyond minimum wage jobs is vital.

Housing costs are sky rocketing here. I was priced out of Seattle and the Eastside a few years back. Although in the last year I have been priced out of King County. In looking to purchase a home in Washington I would be looking outside of King County due to nothing in the price range that I would be able to get a loan for.

KC needs to pay attention to the mid level economic range.

Housing, housing, housing!!! Build and provide housing to the homeless and low income. I am a social service worker who works with homeless adults and can testify to the fact that access to housing would greatly improve the lives of the homeless and low-income. Housing is especially needed for single adult men who are not substance abusers.

Housing should consider workforce housing not only low income. All county residents should have the ability to afford housing options in the community where they work. Resources do need to be maintained for the implementation of the 10 Year Plan. And the county should be the LEADER on this effort, not a follower of the cities.

You can only help those who want to better themselves. These may be the only programs that will do this. Don't waste your money

Many people are not able to find a home to live in that fits their budget. Young people will not be able to own a home without low income housing. Senior Citizens are being taxed out of their homes, with few places to move to because of the high cost and living expenses. Work training programs gives those who really want to earn a living a good chance at getting a job.

Many working people cannot afford housing in the area where they work. Families need to have a safety net to stop the cycle of violence. 10 year plan is a great concept but I doubt that there is enough political will to actually make it happen. It gives people a false sense of hope. If we really wanted to end homelessness, we would start by opening some of the empty government building, get behind the legislature to pass HB1359 and not put obstacles in the way of people who are doing something about the problem.

HOW CAN HOMELESSNESS BE ENDED IN 10 YEARS WHEN ECONOMY AND RENT IS GETTING HIGHER AND THE COST OF LIVING IS STAYING THE SAME AND FAMILIES ARE LOOSING THEIR JOBS

Development of housing resources is at the forefront of ending homelessness.

Housing stability is urgently needed by so many as Housing Authority lotteries for section 8 vouchers and resulting wait lists show. And without increased job skills folks will never get off the bottom of the ladder-many want badly to be trained for work.

10 year plan is a joke: bloated staffing, bloated budget, unattainable goals. Infrastructure needs to be built first. Again, concentrated focus on mental health services.

Low income housing is very hard to get into, especially for victims of domestic abuse. Laws should also be changed to allow women to move out of homes that are abusive without going into debt hole. Many women who are abused stay in homes for fear of what will happen to their credit if they walk away. Getting into low income housing brings with it another problem as they are not available and when they become available the screening is very unfavorable.

A 10 year plan to end homelessness sounds like it would just be a displacement of the homeless. ending homelessness would begin with substance abuse treatment and mental health facilities where people feel safe. strong low income housing and youth and family service programs would be the half-way step to a healthier community

When I said Low Income Housing I don't mean the fake programs you do for median income rentals, but something like Vancouver BC has where they build 100-story inexpensive residential apartment buildings and all new projects have a forced requirement to have some very low income rental apartments, helping people not get trapped in slums. Work training was second, as that also helps in real life. Most drug users are youths from rich communities who then migrate to Seattle and we get forced to take care of them.

The region is rapidly becoming unaffordable for low income individuals and families, more low income housing and home buying programs are needed. Education/training for livable income jobs is a key component to turning around cycles of poverty.

We must take care of feeding and housing folks before we can move their lives forward. 10 years to end homelessness is pie in the sky unless society in general undergoes a paradigm shift -- which is unlikely.

The cost of living in King county is on a run away train. Property values are ridiculous (but I hope they hold until after I sell and move away). Any sufficiently populated area with high cost of living will have homeless. You cannot end it in 10 years unless the entire economy of the area collapses and building and shelter are cheap (or free). The youth need family values (that they are not getting from a single parent home) before they learn responsibility so that they understand education's importance and then will not need work training (like joining the military because they did not get an education in the public system). It's to the point that we have to lower the WASL so they can even graduate from high school. No wonder the motivated foreign people take our jobs.

The myths that people seek low income housing as a way to pay little rent because they don't want to work for it is simply NOT TRUE. No one wants to go to a social worker...they don't treat us very fair !! And nobody likes being on a 2-4 year wait list for housing when they need housing now !! KILL THAT MYTH !! Make low-income housing a priority for people so they can live with the dignity of having somewhere to lay their head. Most of them become viable leaders in their communities after that. Secondly...the 10 year plan to end homelessness isn't channeling their efforts right. too many meetings in the name of planning and not enough being done right now for keeping our shelters and transitional programs in place. We have thousands of people homeless in our state every night. Why aren't some of the abandoned and run-down buildings being utilized at least on a temporary basis for emergency shelter? And why cut funding for these emergency programs every time a cut needs to be made? CUT BACK ON

ADMIN STUFF AND NON-HUMAN SERVICE related stuff. Get our people back on track first...then think about the other stuff...with those you helped right behind you, helping to rebuild.

Also mental health which is closely related to the 2 priorities I marked above

It is disheartening to witness the distress experienced by those who are unable to afford to live in the city that they grew in and not to be able to live in the city in which they work, because their job does not provide them with an adequate income to do so. Furthermore it is distressing to witness the challenges that are faced by the homeless members of our society, due to lack of resources that would facilitate and provide them with the resources to negotiate their way through such difficult times. These resources could, if made available, prevent the potential of chronic homelessness.

the working poor need housing. Seattle had a high % of high school drop out that need work training programs

Need for all incomes to be able to live in the same community. We must always especially think of the future and work with our youth and families. Homelessness is better addressed through mental health and drug treatment. Work training programs are great too.

I do not believe any plan to end homelessness can be effective without addressing housing and other issues.

Poor people cannot afford rent without subsidy, This is a fact.

It is observed that many of the clients who are low income with Medicaid and Medicare are most vulnerable to homelessness because they are unable to afford housing. Housing is extremely expensive in King county and consumes 90% of their disability income making it impossible to obtain shelter and to meet their basic needs. Families struggling to meet basic needs experience more problematic stress in their lives and in their children's lives resulting in a more dysfunctional family system. children learn poor habits and are at more risk of becoming involved in the legal system as a result of families not being able to provide a nurturing environment for their children.

Housing is the essential component of establishing a basic foothold in the community for those needing mental health and chemical dependency treatment. The second priority is to stabilize these clients well enough to return them back to their previous level of functioning. Work Training Programs are the second stepping stone for successful re-entry into the community. Lanss B. Anderson MA, MHP Project START - Seattle Mental Health

Is this where I comment on libraries? Keep up the wonderful service. It is much appreciated by all the population.

Again, these categories are so important. It is hard to decide which area to choose.

10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

10 Year Plan should encompass low income housing and work training programs

We also urgently need housing options for households making the median income or slightly above, but not at the expense of housing for low-income people.

Again, taking care of the medical needs of the underserved is a critical first step in helping them obtain job skills, language skills and education.

To many of these people that have moved in have no where to go or how to keep there apartment and that is where the Work Training Program comes in. This helps these individuals get there foot in the door.

Housing alone cannot solve the problem of homelessness. The 10 Year Plan also addresses the support services that low income people need to maintain their housing. People also need livable wage jobs and work training programs can address this need.

Homeless YOUTH need to be accounted for in the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. They are a very different population than homeless adults. There is not enough housing at this time for under 18 homeless youth, and we also need more for the 18-25 age bracket.

In our affluent society, we should provide homes for the homeless. We, then, will need rents that people can afford. We need to subsidize move-in costs.

YOUTH & FAMILY services also very important

Please see my comments at the beginning of this survey, as should have written in this space.

The 10 year plan and creating low income housing are related and extremely critical. But I would say that Youth and Family Services are extremely important as they services help families become independent!

WE have to take care of the basics first. Think Maslow. If you don't have shelter everything else is secondary.

Senior issues should be an option. If the Baby Boomers moving into retirement are strong and empowered, their children, who won't have to invest all they have in care giving, will be empowered, and their children, the youth, will in turn be empowered.

Ending homelessness includes provisions for low income housing. Training folks to work or helping them transition to a work environment will help reduce homelessness too .

Many people with mental health and/or substance abuse end up being homeless. Address outpatient mental health and substance abuse issue related to homeless. Pass the 1/10 of 1 % sales tax to support the poorly funded system.

I think the 10 year plan to end homelessness incorporates the low income housing and work-training programs. The youth and family services programs I am not too familiar with, but I know families struggle and need help. The divorce rate is only one indication. Lots of families are strong and they are made up of grandparents, single parents, gays and lesbian couples, so the concept of 'mom and dad' doesn't have to be the only one that works.

Work Training Programs

got to have a job before you can pay bills.

Homelessness cannot be ended. There are always going to be people who refuse help and WANT to be homeless. Focus on providing work training for those people who want to improve their lives and get out of poverty.

The market isn't just producing no low income housing - it's not even producing middle income housing. If government becomes involved, it should be as a developer that produces low and moderate cost housing without profit - but without requiring tax dollars either. Private developers aren't meeting this need - they only build projects for the rich, so they can reap big profits. As for ending homelessness, you could end it today if you rounded them all up and put them in the aforementioned work camps, employing them on public projects to earn their keep.

1. People need to know the basics of 'how to work'. If your job is eliminated, train for another. 2. Family Services is a great idea, but it should not be a free ticket to ride on the backs of others. PS, I don't think we can end homelessness. Everyone has a choice to make, unless it is health issues.

Senior services are needed

If homeless people had proper job training and an inexpensive place to live we would end homelessness quickly. You make no mention of services for seniors. This is a large percentage of the population - they need funding for day care facilities at senior centers.

I only have a high school education and I barely get by on my own. I wish there had been a work training program for me when I was still in high school.

More jobs mean security and stability, including housing. Affordable housing eases stress and worries, increases self-confidence and self-worth.

You will not end homelessness so I say we should stop putting money here and put it in places where it will support the most people. We need to train people to hold down a job. We need some goals for people to work to and after 5 years on public assistance say they are now on their own.

ALL of these are critical. But work training and family service programs sound like they would target ROOT problems more than the other two which may address the symptoms after the damage has been done.

Work Training Programs help people to keep a sacred place to enjoy a peaceful space. Then, the youth and families have the time and energy to pursue their dreams.

The council and Rom Sims had a chance to end homeless. Instead they spent the money on bike trails.

thank you

We are parents of a Autistic, Bi-polar, Psychosis (nos), and loving 19 yr old son. We have had to make the tough decision to place him out of our home @ 18 yrs old because of having to choose over his possibly losing funding and supports if monitored in our/the home he grew up in. It seems sad that we could provide 'his one loving environment' but he would loose all community supports if he lived in our home. With an increase in .01% sales tax, our son could received the same supports that required less support '\$'s'

for living on our premises w/minimal caretaker monitoring.

We need moderate income housing...not just low income although that is needed, too. Its location is important, too. Outlying areas are desperate for housing for the elderly...medium and low income especially.

Teach people of all ages to be responsible and to expect to care for themselves and hopefully those that want to work will. Remember, there are some people who choose to be unemployed and homeless. We cannot make people do what we want if they do not have similar desires.

Over the years, almost all the homeless I have read about or come into contact with (as a volunteer) were homeless due to emotional/medical problems. We used to have institutions to care for them and provide them medicine, until the Court ruled this was a form of imprisonment. Generally speaking, if they take their meds and stay off of booze and drugs, spaces can be found for them in shelters or in group homes, if they are willing to live there, sponsored in whole or part by charitable groups.

Youth and Family Services

Our citizens need good services to keep families strong.

The future is our youth and families. Please help with this critical issue and then you won't need to focus on low income housing and homelessness. Work training will also help families in need.

3. 10 year plan to end homelessness. 4. low income housing

Youth and Family services are an upstream way to prevent problems for those people in the future. Part of the need to Low Income Housing is for people that didn't get the help earlier on in life.

One would have thought that services for older adults would be listed given the demographic realities. Older adults can be viewed as both resources and people with needs. There are many older adults who are contributing their time and talent to the priorities listed above.

Why are senior issues not an option?

At risk and teen age boys are the problem. Find something to channel them into positive directions.

Where are the services to seniors? That should be number 1

senior services is #1

Again tough choices, but my bias is to improve the health of youth, family and work able people first across the population.

Mental health services for youth and adults come first.

There are so many in need of help that we must provide the help. With insurance plans sadly lacking many people have nowhere else to turn. With work training we may be able to get many people into jobs where they can earn income and get off the state payrolls

and also put an end to so many unemployed persons. It will also help the homeless in many cases.

This is a difficult choice. I think the 10-year plan to end homelessness is ridiculous. The plan is not nearly comprehensive enough. Building more apartments and low-income housing is not going to ensure the end of homelessness. There needs to be a broad focus on all areas--starting with youth and families. There need to be drug/alcohol treatment beds available. We need worker training programs so people can sustain their own families. And we do need more low-income housing and emergency housing available. There is not enough to meet the current need. I work with victims of domestic violence and almost daily I encounter women who are left with no where to go.

All of these programs need to work together to reach people that are in need

Not just Youth & Family Services, but all human services. Also, the 10 year Plan to End Homelessness includes low income housing.

More Mental Health programs needed in south king county. This would also help homeless and families

SERVICE TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES IS THE BASIS FOR THE OTHER CHOICES

need to help youth.

Although I feel that more funding and focus should be placed on the improvement of Youth and Family Services, and don't think enough emphasis is being placed on funding to support Seniors. People are living longer and thus require more programs, activities and resources to sustain themselves. It is curious that this priority does not appear on the survey? Given the survey choices I would think emphasis on low income housing would be the next logical priority. More people of different cultures and again a rise in the number of people living on a fixed income would seem to make this very important.

These are all very important programs and difficult to prioritize by generalization. We can't let gains slide in order to address other needs.

To think about this issue from a generational perspective and make independence affordable.

REASONS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES PRIORITIES

Farmland Preservation

I'm not sure whether flood control should be a county or state or federal priority. Obviously it is important and ties in with habitat conservation and open space issues.

We need farms and not cement everywhere. Support your local farmer!

These are all linked hand-in-hand. If you conserve habitat, you need to create parks and open space. If you create parks, etc, you save habitat....and farmland. Flood control is something that could, and should, be considered each time a mega-builder is given permits to build more than one residence. Simply by traveling around the county, you can see areas flooding that have never flooded before. There's simply no place for the water to go when an area is built up and paved over.

We all have to eat...we need a place for the food to come from. We all need to play and to enjoy our surroundings.

Urban sprawl needs to be reversed. The county has the planning capacity and legislative muscle to influence this in a coordinated way with other counties and with large cities w/in King Co.

Farmers are being forced off their farms by ridiculous rules and regulations. We need open spaces and parks for people to unwind from the stress of city living.

Farmland is our source of Food & Fuel...there is no question about it. If we want man to go on we need Farmland and Flood control to produce Food, save Food, and save our Clean Water.

We need to preserve these resources for future generations.

Farms are disappearing. With that disappearance goes our basic need-good food that is not mega-agribusiness. Not that I think that is completely wrong, but the smaller farm and farmers keep us connected to who we are- we are what we eat. It makes me sad every time I pass the Kent Valley now the concrete jungle that once was a rich farmland in my youth. If we dedicate ourselves to preserving habitat, we will provide parks and open spaces in the process, and to so extent, flood control. There are birds and animals we need to coexist in a healthy symbiotic relationship. We must stop taking green lands and wet lands from the animals because we are doing our selves in the process.

From the list above, it seems the items are all interrelated.

Farmland Preservation is a good start in making space for more CSA farming which is I believe important not only for the farmers income but for the sake of us whom want to buy locally. For the sake of our children, grandchildren and future children it is important to conserve the habitat that we have and thus it is one of my priorities.

most important

Conserve our food resources !! That's a priority in this category. Natural disasters have been happening al around us in other regions and states. We are surrounded by huge bodies of water...and flooding from huge rains and our waters over-flowing is a

real possibility. Please make sure we have evacuation plans and emergency supplies of sandbagging on the ready. Train our emergency transportation personnel in the case of such evacuations so no one is left behind.

OK, sure, I got flooded on Christmas Eve while I was visiting relatives in Santa Barbara, and my insurance didn't cover it, so you'd think I'd be all for flood control, but you can't remake farmland.

Flood Control

This is an urban area, and an area long since settled and ruined from an environmental perspective. It's long since to start building low cost housing in edge cities and transportation systems to reach them out in the farm belt and the salmon habitat, and let less urban areas worry about farms and environmental preserves. In an urban area like this, what we really need are large parks to balance the edge cities, as they are built - and not necessarily nature preserves, but designed green spaces that respond to human standards of beauty and the sublime.

I am for progress but we need to move forward thoughtfully. We are asking far more of our natural water run-off system every day. Flooding potential increases as we continue to expand our impermeable surfaces. We need to expand the requirement for greater retention systems. Retaining habitat is important to our NW way of life but we should not severely penalize private property owners. We have so many parks that we can't afford to maintain them now.

Habitat is a state and federal function not King County.

3. regional parks and open space

Only the larger governments can control flooding so the county should steep in here. We need to also set aside some areas like a Herron nesting ground in Renton so the birds have a place to nestle recently visited the site there and was impressed with the area.

I don't live in Carnation but I go there often and the Tolt Hill Road is frequently under water when there is flooding. WHY IN THE WORLD would King County NOT raise the part of that road from the bridge to Highway 203 - WHILE they're building the new bridge????? Then, we do need to protect our habitat (which affects the other issues of priority).

Not enough of either.

This is difficult, if we are in a region that is likely to flood then than is a priority, however regional parks and open space are important to me too.

In past years the rivers were dredged and homes and animals were not destroyed. We had more fish in the river in those days because salmon eggs or steelhead eggs survived in the clear gravel beds on the river bottom. Many fish now die during flooding when they are tossed on the pasture land with no way to get back to the river when flooding is down. Also all the dead limbs being planted in the river banks causes eroding, more silt in the river and wood jamming on the raised gravel beds in the river. People, farms, farmers animals are no longer important. Common sense has gone down the drain.

King County may have enjoyed the millions in residential and commercial permitting fees for Redmond Ridge, but your storm water and run off design and implementation processes can't possibly contain the run-off from these over developed sites. You are contributing to the record flooding in the Snoqualmie Valley and low lying areas in King County. Look for innovative designs and look out of the box. Obviously willow trees and blackberry bushes aren't cutting it.

To date, the county is not willing to pay private citizens for the change in usage of their land. If we as citizens want to use other peoples private property, i.e. , make them change the use of their land for our benefit, then we need to pay them fair or over fair value. If we are not willing to do that then do nothing.

That's the way I see it!

Parks are important too, but maybe could be combined with farmland and youth work programs. The floods and threats of floods seem to be getting greater every year.

What farmland? This is not an arable region. The 'farms' that exist here are niche farms at best. Most are on flood plains or other unsuitable 'land'. Farming is done in the eastern part of the state on marginal land. The mid-west (great plains) is where the farm land is located. We could use flood control but better yet, roads that do not flood every spring and fall because they are planned and built to survive a flood. Most flood victims are their own worst enemy because they built in the flood plain. We need to be able to make the most of the close in land, perhaps by making it accessible with roads and leveling some of the habitat, so that land prices are reasonable and the King county population is not forced to spread into the wilderness. I fear it is too late and the sprawl has hit the Cascades and the pressure will now mount until it all goes critical.

Habitat Conservation

Habitat Conservation should encompass farmland and flood programs.

Flood control is also important -- I believe it should be done primarily through use of open space and zoning, not by further confining our rivers. We should not build in flood planes. We should increase natural wetlands, to absorb flood waters.

It is important to conserve our wild places for air quality, native animal and plants, visual respite, and also for recreation.

Zone flood zones so people won't build in them. If they want to live where it floods it is their choice. Not my tax dollars. Strong Zoning laws to preserve farmlands should work.

Again, all of these are important. But most critical is to protect natural habitats in their natural states, to PREVENT destruction in the first place. Parks and open spaces are important for the sanity of adults and children. People are suffering from being deprived of nature in their lives. As a teacher, I believe that much of what our children experience as ADD or ADHD is a direct result of NATURE DEFICITS and not a deficit of drugs. People of all ages are starving, whether they know it or not, for the healing and peace that comes from nature.

Human's need to connect to their environment for a healthy wellbeing and exercise

Do everything we can to preserve natural habitats! The Northwest's natural flora and fauna are so precious and we will miss them very dearly as the symptoms of human society hit them harder and harder.

flood control will take care of itself with proper habitat conservation - even 4th graders know that. farmland preservation is close, but that sounds more like an economic plan than an environmental one. however, regional parks and open space will teach our children to value the earth, and allow for the appreciation within our city, will in turn allow our children to appreciate the city more.

Farmland preservation and flood control come under the heading of habitat conservation, as does the maintenance of regional parks and open space. So these options are somewhat redundant inasmuch as these categories can be subsumed under Habitat Conservation.

We need to protect the environment. Parks are the one place people can go to enjoy even if they do not have a lot of money. I think having to pay \$5 to park a car at a public park sucks.

don't know much about this

'Priority' can mean many things--allocation of staff resources, allocation of Council time, budget allocations. It would be good to define that. Applying to all of the categories, prioritization also depends on what the roles/definitions/parameters are within each of the sub-areas....and I suspect that they should vary as issues are more/less emergent or current.

To be good stewards of this earth, each category is deserving. However, we must conserve the environment before we can enjoy it.

It is imperative to have a plan which is in synch with the current findings on global warming. Environment needs to be preserved, and food production practices improved so that people are eating more locally grown, organically produced foods. It is important to cut down on the transportation of foods from all over the world, as this is a significant contributor to global warming gases.

Being kind to our environment involves being responsible stewards to the 'habitats' that exist now - including the 'human habitat' of open space, parks, and farmland. If we listen to environmentalists and follow their advice we'll assist the flood control.

Habitat Conservation is good for nature We need small family farm preservation for the habitat

Environmental concerns must be paramount, thus habitat conservation must come first. This should include parks and open space and parks should have natural habitat areas to teach folks about the importance of natural habitat. Flood control is just nature doing its thing as a result of poor housing development practices. Of course, if we take care of the environment, then food must be the next priority then preserving local sources of food become paramount.

Habitat Conservation needs to include climate change prevention.

I would actually put every one at #1! All are so important. I do NOT think athletic fields

should cover up parks and open space. I think businesses should be required to add athletic fields on top of parking and other creative architecture and schools should open their fields to community use and money. We need to protect our big trees! Perhaps relieve property taxes on folks that are forced to cut trees and rebuild bigger houses.

Farmland preservation for small local farmers is also vital.

I think the most important issue here is looking at ways to reduce our CO2 emissions. I think Mayor Greg Nichols is has taken some excellent steps in this direction, and it needs to be not only county-wide, but state-wide and nation-wide as well.

Controlling habitat controls flooding. People live here for the QoL that parks provide.

We are parents of a Autistic, Bi-polar, Psychosis (nos), and loving 19 yr old son. We have had to make the tough decision to place him out of our home @ 18 yrs old because of having to choose over his possibly losing funding and supports if monitored in our/the home he grew up in. It seems sad that we could provide 'his one loving environment' but he would loose all community supports if he lived in our home. With an increase in .01% sales tax, our son could received the same supports that required less support '\$'s' for living on our premises w/minimal caretaker monitoring.

The choices here are limited. What about water quality? What about cleaning up Puget Sound??? What about improving the quality of the effluent that is discharged to Puget Sound???

Let's make the habitat vibrant for our children's children.

Regional Parks and Open Space

I don't understand why you buy rails for trails and don't maintain the parks you have instead. On a side note, as a bee keeper why you won't lease lots for our hobbist in some of your larger parks.

I believe Regional Parks and Open Space should be the number one priority to support outdoor activities. Flood Control would be the #2 priority due to the extensive flooding that occurs in this area. Increased regulation on building areas known to flood, as well as improved response policies and procedures following a flood.

The people need places to go and parks are a great and often free gift from the government. People can camp, play ball, run around with their kids and just be one with nature. Our foods come from the farmlands and we need to stand behind our farmers.

TRANSIT RIDERS REASONS FOR PRIORITIES

Greater bus reliability

The number 17 bus is not very timely in the afternoon.

I hope that we would invest in other options (rather than busses), but greater frequency and more reliability is fine given the bus option.

Schedules posted at each bus stops do not always indicate approximate time a bus reaches that stop. I have seen schedules that indicate the times a bus is expected at a stop as far back as a half mile from where I am picking up my ride. Also, currently route #8 covers its entire route (Central District - Seattle Center) only Monday through Friday. On weekends it goes Capitol Hill - Seattle Center only. Doesn't make sense to me.

Need also to expand routes, but having buses that are more frequent and reliable would greatly expand use. Knowing something comes every 15 minutes or so reliably has been very important in my decisions whether to take a bus or drive.

I think this speaks for itself.

More reliability during inclement weather, such as snow and ice.

Actually, I think the buses are doing great!!!

I ride the bus from south county to Seattle. I would like to catch a 169 at Benson (108th SE) and SE 208th Change at Renton P&R to a 101 to Seattle. The problem with that is that the 169 arrives at the P&R One minute after the 101 leaves. Can anything be done about that?

#1 priority: reliability and frequency provided by bus stop reader boards telling riders the Estimated Time of Arrival of the next bus. Increases in scheduled frequency is worthless if 2 or 3 buses arrive together, and reliability is just perception if you don't know if the bus was early and missed, or late and will never arrive.

Our region has one of the worst bus system especially for the low income individuals who do not have a car. Working with low income people tells all, a ride to go and get resources that would take 30 mins in a car takes 4 hrs for clients, we require clients to do so much in order to comply or qualify for some need and yet in the 5 things we require them to do in a day our transportation system enables them to do just one thing, give for instance if a client has chemical dependency, cps issues, domestic violence etc. our transportation system is a barrier to their success.

There needs to be better integration between regional bus services. To get from Seattle to Olympia (when the Legislature is in session) is a major undertaking. In Seattle there are not enough East-West runs from Queen Anne etc to the U district. The 74 is not available weekend mornings or any evenings aft 7 PM.

I'm a dedicated Metro rider but even I get frustrated when my bus is late or even worse, never shows up. We won't get more people on to Metro until bus travel is more reliable and frequent.

Obviously, a solution other than more and better buses is needed. Buses are just more

traffic.

Having a more reliable bus system would increase my usage even more, especially when I come in later or leave earlier.

We need to help public transit break free from the personal automobile. We need dedicated bus lanes, exits, that prioritize public transit and not the car. We need more light rail. We need incentives and rewards to aggressively encourage public transit use, and make it economically disadvantageous to use a car. We need limits on personal auto use.

Reliability is a HUGE issue, especially for youth riders, who often get left at stops when scheduled busses drive right by!

Greater frequency

Need also to expand routes, but having buses that are more frequent and reliable would greatly expand use. Knowing something comes every 15 minutes or so reliably has been very important in my decisions whether to take a bus or drive.

I think this speaks for itself.

I ride from Eastgate P&R to downtown Seattle and back almost daily.

Reliability is helpful -- but if we can increase bus frequency, then bus reliability becomes less of an issue.

I ride the Sound Transit train in the morning to work and in the evening. I rarely use the bus. So more frequency to me means more than just 4 departures in the morning and 4 in the evening. I prefer the Dallas DART light rail schedule:

<http://www.dart.org/riding/dartrailredline.asp> (there is also a blue line). The coverage areas make it convenient for a large number of people.

I ride the train.

There is only one bus where I live that will get me to work downtown, if it ran more frequently it would be much better...especially since I typically have to watch many other busses go by, one after the other, all of the same number and mine does not come but every 30 minutes and only if it is on time.

People I work with, who live in emergency or transitional housing in King County have experienced lack of night or early bird buses. One site there are no buses after 10:30 pm and no buses that get them to Seattle before 6 am. These are low income families who are struggling to find employment and many are trying to work any hours that are available to them. Buses that don't run at least till 1 am makes it difficult for them to work the swing shift and buses that don't start running early enough has made it difficult for some to get to work in Seattle when they have a 6 am start time. Neighborhoods that have a high density of low income people need the higher resource when it comes to having the buses running routinely. They are people who struggle most with the high price of gas for those who do have cars. Many of them don't have cars for a variety of reasons. Areas where people are in the higher income brackets may at least have the

*ability to use a car to get to a park and ride to then make their work commute possible.
more than busses*

It takes for-ever to get across central Seattle...not to mention extended trips north or south. Many essential routes have infrequent schedules after 7pm.

We hear some routes may be cut in our area of Redmond (Education Hill.) This would be a hardship to seniors who can no longer drive. We need more routes, not less!

increase popular routes out of downtown at commuter hours: #28 between 4-6pm. Each bus is standing room only. KC Metro has ignored many requests to adjust this route.

The buses are quite reliable and the routes are relatively convenient, but there are certain routes that are always late/always crowded. Also, there should be better security for riders and for DRIVERS as well.

Hard to pick two. Both reliability and frequency are needed, depending on the route.

I have an hour and a half commute on the bus every morning. More express busses would help!

More bike racks, discount for bus-bike combo commuters?

You folks have done a good job as far as security & reliability. What needs to be updated is the frequency of the routes. For instances take the Holiday-Sat. & Sun. route and delete the Sunday route all together. Just use the Saturday route but add a few earlier buses. Like # 55 & 54 Bus routes start at 5:30 a.m. or so...You see you folks for get that a lot of people do work on Holidays & Sundays. The routes you have now for these days are not adequate at all...they do not start early enough.

also buses that aren't cattle cars (Portland seems to have transportation that feels less crowded & less of a bargain-basement feel to them) & that aren't hothouses during the winter.

#218 is overcrowded and needs to run more frequently throughout the day. There needs to be better Metro service to Preston/Snoqualmie/North Bend area.

My kids ride the bus and I feel that they are generally reliable and safe. Our local route on the Eastside is very safe. The buses also need to accommodate teens. It would really save a lot of parents driving if there were more routes to service play fields and activities for kids.

It is just a time factor for me when it takes an hour to just get downtown (10 minutes in my car). There are better express routes for commuters but poor support for ordinary riders or people who work different hours. I lived in Geneva and never had a car or a bus schedule...at my local stop they came every 3 minutes in the day and every 5 minutes in the evening!

My service (from Wedgwood to downtown) is very good. In general it seems that transportation should address the single occupancy vehicle use-- if this were more costly via tolls it could help fund transportation priorities while encouraging mass transportation use.

I take the 77 and every day I have to stand on the bus. This is an increasingly popular

bus, many folks drive to the neighborhood to take this bus. If you want people to ride the bus the least you can do is make sure they can sit down.

Sound transit seems to run a cleaner bus than Metro.

Buses, busses and more buses please, I get the 2 zone pass monthly, always. Its my Limousine

Better Security for Riders

Upstanding working people want to use public transit , but take the car instead, because our bus system puts a higher priority in serving the 'needs' of bums, crazy people, drunks, people with no hygiene, rude noisy school kids who should be put on school buses instead, and their ilk. Start kicking these types off buses and refusing to pick them up, so that those who actually need to use them to get to work can leave the car home. There should also be more small shuttle bases to rapidly ferry people from neighborhoods to central dispatch points - perhaps radio dispatched to one's doorstep - and actual express buses on major routes, like between 23rd and Jackson and the University, for example. What happens now is you send buses down these routes every 10 minutes during peak hours - and by the end you have three of them arriving one right after the other, since they all make all the stops, and the first buses pick up more people. Also why do we use such huge, double-length buses? Why not more manageable sized ones like they use in Europe? They clog and tear up the narrow streets of Seattle, and make you feel like you're being herded into a cattle car, like this area could care less about the comfort of its urban transit riders. These remarks apply to buses in Seattle, that people use to commute from their in-city home to work. Buses between downtown and the suburbs seems to be much better.

Need more security. Loud riders, riders who project use of cell phones, use vulgar language, rude, non paying. Drivers are not empowered and thus insecurity. Stopping on hills, not providing more frequent locations where buses let people off.

I didn't see on your list of priorities, the need for employee training of people with disabilities riding. Too often, drivers don't get out of their seats to help a disabled rider board or get off. Drivers also have pulled off from the stop before the disabled person is seated and situated. THAT WOULD BE FIRST PRIORITY TO ME (which I assumed fell under the umbrella of rider security). Second is the fact that there's very little if any transportation routes that service east-west travel...or west-east travel. It's very difficult to go out of your way to go downtown for a connecting bus because there are no routes for straight travel.

More, different routes

I rely on Metro solely for getting around. I have no car and have to limit my travel and living areas to places where Metro serves.

This still addresses simply the bus routes. What about a rapid transit system that would feed into the Boeing plant areas, with a network of buses that branch out from there, or

connect up with another rapid transit to the next Boeing plant? For example, rapid transit into Renton, with additional rapid transit to Everett, plus bus lines to various points from there. This works extremely well in Europe. Holland is a good example.

We need an Express bus from the 56th Tukwila P&R to Bellevue TC We need weekend Sounder routes from Kent to Seattle We need an Express bus from Kent to downtown Seattle

My most frequent/commuter route(s) 28, 3,4,48 are pretty well served...understand that others are less so but have no direct experience.

Drivers are some of the best people there are! They're kind and helpful. I choose to rent with access to good bus routes. More, different routes would give me greater options on where to live.

Once again, greater frequency of bus service would come under the heading of more routes, while different routes would include more flexible routes (E/W; N/S). Smaller energy efficient faster bus service would get folks out of their autos on their routine - home to work and back - daily trips.

Within Seattle, more east/west routes.

My husband travel from Shoreline to Bremerton on public transportation with excellent results. My disabled son is limited in his transportation due to lack of East - West routes. A three minute drive in a car can translate into a hour and a half bus trip.

knowing I would get there faster using transit than using a car

Casual transit use is only possible when you don't have to coordinate every last connection down to the minute before leaving your home. A more frequently running network would reduce the planning costs and promote rider ship.

Vans are needed to bring people from large new developments to bus stops if the buses are not going to come to them.

more night buses. also it has to stay affordable - no fare hikes! really we need some kind of subway or rail transit.

The bus system is great during commuter runs, but not so great on the east/west runs

People in south King County need more and better bus transportation. Sound Transit should help some, and this is good, but bus service is spotty at best.

NON-RIDERS: REASONS FOR PRIORITIES

Greater frequency

If I commuted to downtown Seattle, I would take the bus in a moment! As I travel from N. Seattle to the Rainier Valley, transit isn't very frequent or quick.

Public transportation only works if it takes you where you need to go, when you want to be there, for a reasonable price. But, frankly, I don't think government should be in this either.

Your system needs to be more creative in how it moves people and it will provide the funds to pay for its own expansion.

I feel guilty about not taking the bus, but it's a 2-hour bus ride vs. a 30 minute drive. Reduce the commute time from Magnolia to the CD and you've got yourself another rider. Cheers to Seattle's commitment to public transportation!

really all of the above are important.

There is only one bus line that serves the whole Snoqualmie valley.

Can't get home from work at the time I leave on a reliable bus.

Daily bus riding is not an option for me given my job and family.

2 of my grown children and myself have tried to use bus for some commuting, but it is very difficult to travel efficiently, especially from Carnation-Duvall.

My husband and I really want to use the bus but my husband gets off work around 630PM, missing the last bus trip from his work to home area. Yes, more frequency and time allocations.

I live too far out to use the bus. I will not commute to a bus route and then leave my car in an unsecured lot all day. Some of the traffic flow problems are due to buses stopping on the roads to load/unload 1-2 people. I think the buses in rural King county are costing a lot more in money and fuel then they can ever save and only irritating the traffic.

after 8:00 pm the system begins to close down many laborers need to catch the bus before 4:00 in the morning to get to work

I used to live in Vancouver BC and transit here has just gone downhill since I moved here in 1989 when I got out of the Army. We are a joke. Time to stop talking and start doing. And empty bus routes in areas where rider ship is low won't cut it.

Requirement to transfer buses limits the interest in using bus for commuting.

Express buses

As long as buses take longer to get to my destination than driving does, I won't take the bus. To get to the area of Seattle where my wife works from Fairwood, it takes 2 buses and almost 2 hours

I live in North Bend and work in Seattle. Would love to ride the bus 2-3 days a week, but it would need to be a 45 minute ride, not 90 minutes!

I would gladly ride the bus to work, if it did not involve a 2.5 hour commute on three busses from my home in Renton to my work in Auburn!

If I didn't have to have my car to travel from one AFH to the next I would use the bus. All me personal experiences have been good.

It is nearly impossibility to take transit from Seattle to South King County - reverse commute.

Transit from NW Renton to Bellevue/Crossroads requires 2-3 transfers and an hour commute. But it's a 20 minute drive. My time & flexibility are a priority.

Better Security for Riders

Buses are NOT safe for riders or drivers. End the ride free zone! Eliminate the huge buses, use the small ones more often if necessary.

I only use the bus if my car is in the shop but if the prices of gas continue to rise that could be reconsidered if bus fare isn't also prohibitive

Public transportation is not a priority for me.

If I drive to work, it takes 10 to 15 minutes. If I use the bus, I must transfer 3 times and ride for one and one-half hours each way! This is not practical and borders on insanity! I would love to use mass transit if it were a reasonable alternative for me. I use the two and one-half hours to exercise and do community service; it's a good trade-off.

My job requires access to a vehicle and use the vehicle to assist mentally ill clients.

I believe improved security is needed. Many seniors who rely on bus service as a means of transportation need to feel safer. Passengers on buses need to be more respectful to other passengers. Priority #2 increased frequency of bus service would improve the congestion and wait time of bus riders.

I would have to drive to a bus stop and then take two buses to get to work which is a distance of 10 miles.

Being in the suburbs a bus that is an express or fairly quick is a great thing. My daughter likes the idea of a bus to take her places as long as it is a direct route since we aren't comfortable with her changing buses alone.

I would be more inclined to ride the bus if it were cleaner and less of an inconvenience.

More, different routes

Current, proposed and partial completed mass transit programs in King County do not address MY needs to commute to/from my work. I live near Covington and work at either Tacoma Narrows Airport or Boeing Field. I need to be able to get to/from work at all hours of the day or night any day of the week. I don't ever see mass transit being able to

accommodate my needs.

Buses just don't seem to go where I need to go and they don't allow flexibility or carrying capacity that I need. Even if I were able to make a bus trip to many places that I need to go it would turn a 20 minute trip into a three hour journey.

We are 6 miles from nearest Metro service.

I am a field customer service rep driving from customer to customer and not able to use the bus during the work week. As in the past, I again this season plan on taking the train or bus to Safeco Field with my grandson. I leave from Kent Station which is well-lit and easy to access. It's an express bus home which is nice after a long day at work then a evening of baseball during the week or just a game on the weekend. I would ride the bus more on the weekends and days off if the bus stops were easy to get to and close to where I was going. Having something similar to BART would be a nice way to travel to other areas to visit friends. Even though this was my #2, I've never had or witnesses a problem on the bus or felt unsafe so I think the safety is fine. If I had, that would likely cause me not to take that bus again. Put the security on the routes that need it -- if more it is needed. On another note, it sure would be nice if more bus drivers were pleasant or friendly instead of grumbly or rushed. They should greet or acknowledge people entering or leaving the bus by the front door of the bus. I'm not talking about having a conversation or holding up the line. A pleasant hi or bye could go a long way! I have a family member who has low-vision and is a frequent bus rider. He often wants to verify the bus number with the driver to make sure he's getting on the correct bus. One particular male driver on route 150 in Kent was quite rude to him when he asked if it was the 150. The driver actually left his seat, got off the bus then got back on and sarcastically said 'Yep, that's what is says' and mentioned reading the sign on the front of the bus (impossible due to his lack of vision). Once my family member told him he couldn't see it because of his vision, the driver gruffly replied 'Oh' in a grumbly voice. The proper thing to have done at that point would have been apologizing. Of course, if he was doing the proper thing, he would have simply replied 'yes' to the initial question. The driver may have had a bad day or even a bad life. In neither case would my family member have been the root cause of the drivers problems. Possibly there was a problem with a rider just before my family member boarded the bus, the driver received bad news or that's just his disposition. None of these are acceptable reason for his actions. There is no excuse for rudeness. If people don't like dealing with the public, being a bus driver is the wrong profession for them. It doesn't take a customer service rep to realize this or to act in a humane way to people encountered throughout the day. It doesn't cost a thing and pays in good will. Every Metro driver is in a customer service position representing King County. We appreciate the good drivers of which there are many. Unfortunately, one bad drive is too many and you have more than one. Again, every driver is a representative of ML King County. Thank you. Brenda Fincher 253-946-1181 25915 29th Ave. S. #B205 Kent, WA 98032

Currently, I am housecleaning in my own business because it pays twice as much per hour as teaching with a master's degree. Pretty pathetic, huh? So I need to cart my vacuum and supplies around with me in my trunk. I have checked into using the bus system, particularly for snow days when my car is useless, but found that I would have to take several buses over a large amount of time to simply get from Lake Forest Park to

various places around Seattle. I wish we had more buses (SMALLER buses or even mini-vans) all over the city, that were officially marked that people could just hop on and off as needed. A system like this, using mini-vans, worked extremely well for the people of Grenada which I enjoyed and used everyday while I was a Peace Corps volunteer there. Granted, the mini-van system was privately owned, each mini-van with a separate owner, but there was someone going your way every 10 or 15 minutes, except on Sunday when the place turned into a ghost town.

I've never had a job where it is easy to use the transit system. To use it would entail an extra two to three hours of my day just getting to and from work.

To get from Seattle to the Eastside would take 2-3 buses and over 1.5 hrs to commute.

I have lived and visited large cities all over the world and Seattle does not rank anywhere near the top. It is a shame that rapid transit does not take priority here. Cities with good, reliable transit systems are so easy to get around in. If we had a good rapid transit bus, metro, train system, our city streets would be a lot less congested. And the environment would not take such a big hit, yes it would reduce global warming....which does exist, thanks.

I would love to ride the bus, but it would take me over an hour each way vs. 20' in the car when I worked for Boeing and commuted from Kent to Lynnwood there was no way for me to use the bus system. It did not allow me to go from Kent to Lynnwood. Not everybody wants to just go to Seattle. We need to connect cities that are not Seattle. I belong to Group Health and I must drive to the East Side clinic since there is no transportation to this facility.

Due to the fact we are retired, we don't travel very far from home. Once a week we do our shopping and volunteer at the Senior Center.

It is faster for me to ride my bike the 9 miles to work than to transfer to 3 different busses to get there. I carpool part way to work and ride my bike some in the summer

I currently carpool, because bus transportation is not available to my work location by my start time of 6am.

We need more bus routes in the unincorporated areas off of the Kent Kangley road/272nd. especially for children that go to private schools or jobs.

I live in Carnation, so there are only 1 or 2 buses per day.

I have lived abroad, doing a similar job and used solely public transportation. It was efficient and met my needs. As our public transportation stands now, I could never use it! I have a job where I am based in multiple south-county cities. I meet clients outside of the office very often. I have to be mobile, and our current bus system would never allow me that mobility that my job demands.

I live in Ballard and work in Shoreline. All these 33 years the bus service was inefficient for my shift needs. Now I am close to retirement and would probably not start taking the bus even if routes and times changed but might consider ride share.

Many older citizens can't walk to bus even if it is only a few blocks away. We need to be

informed of when it runs, where to catch it in each stop etc. It is often difficult to fully understand the printed information if you aren't a native and know the towns and areas.

I live in the Snoqualmie valley and work in North Seattle from 2:30 pm to 11:00 pm there are no buses or ride share available.

I would love to be able to take an express bus directly from Duvall, Woodinville or Redmond directly to the airport.

My concern with the entire transit process, is there seems to be very little concern to the impact we are having on commerce. If you are not serving the local market, why would you manufacture a thing in this area. Look at Boeing. Their new plan has all the components made out of state in sections. They are flown in by special plans and do not use the roadways. How many jobs have you causes to be lost because no more new free way lanes are built which trucks and commerce can travel. HOV lanes do nothing for this. So with out some attention to this issue, the rest of the issues have no merits to me. FYI, Boeing has little or no impact on my living.

DATA TABLES

READING THE CROSTABULATION TABLES

The crosstabulations found in this report are presented in a "banner table" format. Categories of respondents (e.g. "35-54 years old," or "Female") are listed across the top of each page (the "banner"). The questions asked in the survey are listed down the left margin. The figures in each cell are percentages based on the number of respondents in the category at the head of each column.



KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	GENDER		AGER		HHOLD			
	1.00	Male	Female	18-50	51+	Single, No Kids	Couple, No Kids	Single, Kids	Couple, Kids
Total 1.00	232 100	107 100	107 100	86 100	134 100	49 100	75 100	15 100	83 100
COUNTY PRIORITIES									
Law/Safety/Justice	148 64%	70 65%	69 64%	52 60%	92 69%	31 63%	50 67%	10 67%	54 65%
Health & Human Srvcs	114 49%	47 44%	60 56%	44 51%	65 49%	24 49%	41 55%	11 73%	35 42%
Transportation	82 35%	41 38%	38 36%	33 38%	47 35%	17 35%	25 33%	3 20%	37 45%
Parks & Rec	14 6%	7 7%	6 6%	6 7%	8 6%	3 6%	4 5%	1 7%	6 7%
Planning & Econ Dvlpt	56 24%	26 24%	28 26%	26 30%	29 22%	12 24%	15 20%	4 27%	24 29%
General Govt	19 8%	12 11%	5 5%	5 6%	13 10%	6 12%	8 11%		4 5%
DK/NA	31 13%	11 10%	8 7%	6 7%	14 10%	5 10%	7 9%	1 7%	6 7%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	INCORP		COMMUTE				ATTNGOVT		
	1.00	City	Uninc KC	Commute my community	Commute other prt county	Commute outside KC	Retired	CLOSELY	SOME	NOT AT ALL
Total 1.00	232 100	186 100	30 100	75 100	82 100	14 100	45 100	43 100	109 100	69 100
COUNTY PRIORITIES										
Law/Safety/Justice	148 64%	121 65%	21 70%	44 59%	51 62%	12 86%	36 80%	31 72%	72 66%	43 62%
Health & Human Srvcs	114 49%	90 48%	16 53%	40 53%	38 46%	9 64%	24 53%	22 51%	49 45%	41 59%
Transportation	82 35%	68 37%	11 37%	27 36%	33 40%	3 21%	14 31%	11 26%	46 42%	24 35%
Parks & Rec	14 6%	13 7%	1 3%	5 7%	6 7%	1 7%	1 2%	4 9%	5 5%	5 7%
Planning & Econ Dvlpt	56 24%	46 25%	9 30%	18 24%	22 27%	2 14%	9 20%	11 26%	31 28%	12 17%
General Govt	19 8%	18 10%		6 8%	8 10%	1 7%	3 7%	4 9%	10 9%	4 6%
DK/NA	31 13%	16 9%	2 7%	10 13%	6 7%		3 7%	3 7%	5 5%	9 13%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	WRKSHP				
	1.00	Dist 5-7	Dist 1-4	Dist 3-6	Dist 2-8	Dist 9
Total 1.00	232 100	53 100	56 100	51 100	51 100	21 100
COUNTY PRIORITIES						
Law/Safety/Justice	148 64%	37 70%	37 66%	34 67%	27 53%	13 62%
Health & Human Srvcs	114 49%	25 47%	32 57%	14 27%	33 65%	10 48%
Transportation	82 35%	18 34%	15 27%	24 47%	18 35%	7 33%
Parks & Rec	14 6%		2 4%	6 12%	4 8%	2 10%
Planning & Econ Dvlpt	56 24%	14 26%	16 29%	11 22%	10 20%	5 24%
General Govt	19 8%	3 6%	5 9%	6 12%	3 6%	2 10%
DK/NA	31 13%	9 17%	5 9%	7 14%	7 14%	3 14%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	GENDER		AGE				HHOLD			
	1.00	Male	Female	18-35	36-50	51-64	65+	Single, No Kids	Couple, No Kids	Single, Kids	Couple, Kids
Total 1.00	232 100	107 100	107 100	24 100	62 100	103 100	31 100	49 100	75 100	15 100	83 100
LAW, SAFETY & JUSTICE											
Pub Def Attnys	24 10%	10 9%	11 10%	4 17%	5 8%	10 10%	4 13%	7 14%	9 12%	1 7%	5 6%
Prosecutign Attnys	16 7%	10 9%	6 6%	2 8%	7 11%	4 4%	3 10%	2 4%	7 9%	2 13%	5 6%
Superior & District Crts	109 47%	54 50%	48 45%	10 42%	30 48%	49 48%	15 48%	28 57%	34 45%	8 53%	37 45%
Emergency prep	71 31%	31 29%	36 34%	12 50%	20 32%	30 29%	6 19%	17 35%	20 27%	4 27%	28 34%
Jails/Cmnty Corrections	43 19%	24 22%	18 17%	3 13%	16 26%	19 18%	4 13%	5 10%	11 15%	4 27%	23 28%
Juvenile Srvcs	31 13%	6 6%	22 21%	2 8%	5 8%	19 18%	4 13%	4 8%	13 17%	4 27%	9 11%
Sex Offndr Registrn/Search	26 11%	11 10%	12 11%	3 13%	4 6%	13 13%	4 13%	6 12%	12 16%		7 8%
Sheriffs Dept	75 32%	42 39%	28 26%	7 29%	24 39%	34 33%	9 29%	13 27%	23 31%	1 7%	37 45%
Victim Assistance	25 11%	11 10%	14 13%	3 13%	3 5%	12 12%	7 23%	8 16%	9 12%	2 13%	6 7%
Other	4 2%	2 2%	2 2%			2 2%	1 3%	2 4%	1 1%		1 1%
DK/NA	40 17%	13 12%	17 16%	2 8%	10 16%	14 14%	5 16%	6 12%	11 15%	4 27%	8 10%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	INCORP		COMMUTE				ATTNGOVT		
	1.00	City	Uninc KC	Commute my community	Commute other prt county	Commute outside KC	Retired	CLOSELY	SOME	NOT AT ALL
Total 1.00	232 100	186 100	30 100	75 100	82 100	14 100	45 100	43 100	109 100	69 100
LAW, SAFETY & JUSTICE										
Pub Def Attnys	24 10%	21 11%	1 3%	6 8%	9 11%	1 7%	6 13%	2 5%	7 6%	13 19%
Prosecutign Attnys	16 7%	14 8%	2 7%	4 5%	8 10%	1 7%	3 7%	4 9%	7 6%	5 7%
Superior & District Crts	109 47%	87 47%	16 53%	42 56%	36 44%	4 29%	21 47%	18 42%	52 48%	37 54%
Emergency prep	71 31%	58 31%	9 30%	28 37%	26 32%	4 29%	10 22%	13 30%	35 32%	21 30%
Jails/Cmnty Corrections	43 19%	36 19%	6 20%	10 13%	23 28%	4 29%	6 13%	10 23%	20 18%	13 19%
Juvenile Srvcs	31 13%	27 15%	3 10%	9 12%	9 11%	4 29%	8 18%	9 21%	15 14%	6 9%
Sex Offndr Registrn/Search	26 11%	23 12%	2 7%	10 13%	9 11%	1 7%	5 11%	5 12%	15 14%	5 7%
Sheriffs Dept	75 32%	55 30%	16 53%	23 31%	25 30%	8 57%	15 33%	15 35%	40 37%	19 28%
Victim Assistance	25 11%	25 13%		7 9%	8 10%	1 7%	8 18%	2 5%	11 10%	10 14%
Other	4 2%	3 2%		2 3%			1 2%	1 2%	3 3%	
DK/NA	40 17%	23 12%	5 17%	9 12%	11 13%		7 16%	7 16%	13 12%	9 13%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	WRKSHP				
	1.00	Dist 5-7	Dist 1-4	Dist 3-6	Dist 2-8	Dist 9
Total 1.00	232 100	53 100	56 100	51 100	51 100	21 100
LAW, SAFETY & JUSTICE						
Pub Def Attnys	24 10%	2 4%	8 14%	4 8%	8 16%	2 10%
Prosecutign Attnys	16 7%	3 6%	3 5%	5 10%	2 4%	3 14%
Superior & District Crts	109 47%	30 57%	28 50%	19 37%	26 51%	6 29%
Emergency prep	71 31%	13 25%	20 36%	18 35%	16 31%	4 19%
Jails/Cmnty Corrections	43 19%	12 23%	7 13%	9 18%	7 14%	8 38%
Juvenile Srvcs	31 13%	6 11%	6 11%	9 18%	8 16%	2 10%
Sex Offndr Regstrn/Search	26 11%	6 11%	6 11%	6 12%	6 12%	2 10%
Sheriffs Dept	75 32%	17 32%	17 30%	24 47%	8 16%	9 43%
Victim Assistance	25 11%	7 13%	7 13%	2 4%	6 12%	3 14%
Other	4 2%	3 6%			1 2%	
DK/NA	40 17%	7 13%	10 18%	6 12%	14 27%	3 14%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	GENDER		AGE				HHOLD			
	1.00	Male	Female	18-35	36-50	51-64	65+	Single, No Kids	Couple, No Kids	Single, Kids	Couple, Kids
Total 1.00	232 100	107 100	107 100	24 100	62 100	103 100	31 100	49 100	75 100	15 100	83 100
PUBLIC HEALTH											
Public health Clinics	169 73%	75 70%	86 80%	17 71%	45 73%	77 75%	26 84%	38 78%	58 77%	12 80%	58 70%
Drug/Substance Abuse Trmt	90 39%	36 34%	48 45%	9 38%	24 39%	39 38%	13 42%	18 37%	29 39%	6 40%	35 42%
HIV/AIDS Prev Prog	19 8%	10 9%	6 6%	4 17%	3 5%	6 6%	5 16%	6 12%	9 12%		3 4%
Immunztn Prog	81 35%	42 39%	32 30%	8 33%	27 44%	36 35%	7 23%	13 27%	24 32%	6 40%	36 43%
Pandemic Flu Prep	38 16%	18 17%	16 15%	2 8%	8 13%	20 19%	4 13%	8 16%	12 16%		15 18%
Restaurant Inspections	17 7%	8 7%	7 7%	1 4%	4 6%	8 8%	3 10%	6 12%	4 5%	2 13%	4 5%
Epidemiology	18 8%	12 11%	6 6%	3 13%	5 8%	8 8%	2 6%	5 10%	6 8%		7 8%
Other	5 2%	2 2%	3 3%		1 2%	3 3%	1 3%	1 2%	1 1%	1 7%	2 2%
DK/NA	27 12%	11 10%	10 9%	4 17%	7 11%	9 9%	1 3%	3 6%	7 9%	3 20%	6 7%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	INCORP		COMMUTE				ATTNGOVT		
	1.00	City	Uninc KC	Commute my community	Commute other prt county	Commute outside KC	Retired	CLOSELY	SOME	NOT AT ALL
Total 1.00	232 100	186 100	30 100	75 100	82 100	14 100	45 100	43 100	109 100	69 100
PUBLIC HEALTH										
Public health Clinics	169 73%	137 74%	23 77%	55 73%	59 72%	9 64%	39 87%	30 70%	82 75%	53 77%
Drug/Substance Abuse Trmt	90 39%	75 40%	12 40%	29 39%	34 41%	5 36%	18 40%	16 37%	49 45%	22 32%
HIV/AIDS Prev Prog	19 8%	14 8%	1 3%	5 7%	6 7%	1 7%	6 13%	2 5%	8 7%	8 12%
Immunztn Prog	81 35%	69 37%	8 27%	27 36%	34 41%	4 29%	11 24%	19 44%	36 33%	24 35%
Pandemic Flu Prep	38 16%	33 18%	3 10%	15 20%	9 11%	3 21%	7 16%	7 16%	16 15%	12 17%
Restaurant Inspections	17 7%	13 7%	3 10%	6 8%	6 7%	1 7%	3 7%	4 9%	7 6%	5 7%
Epidemiology	18 8%	13 7%	3 10%	3 4%	6 7%	3 21%	3 7%	6 14%	8 7%	4 6%
Other	5 2%	5 3%		1 1%	2 2%	1 7%	1 2%	1 2%	3 3%	1 1%
DK/NA	27 12%	13 7%	7 23%	9 12%	8 10%	1 7%	2 4%	1 2%	9 8%	9 13%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	WRKSHP				
	1.00	Dist 5-7	Dist 1-4	Dist 3-6	Dist 2-8	Dist 9
Total 1.00	232 100	53 100	56 100	51 100	51 100	21 100
PUBLIC HEALTH						
Public health Clinics	169 73%	44 83%	44 79%	29 57%	36 71%	16 76%
Drug/Substance Abuse Trmt	90 39%	18 34%	26 46%	18 35%	18 35%	10 48%
HIV/AIDS Prev Prog	19 8%	3 6%	3 5%	4 8%	7 14%	2 10%
Immunztn Prog	81 35%	16 30%	19 34%	23 45%	18 35%	5 24%
Pandemic Flu Prep	38 16%	7 13%	10 18%	10 20%	8 16%	3 14%
Restaurant Inspections	17 7%	5 9%	2 4%	6 12%	4 8%	
Epidemiology	18 8%	6 11%	1 2%	5 10%	4 8%	2 10%
Other	5 2%	2 4%			1 2%	2 10%
DK/NA	27 12%	5 9%	7 13%	7 14%	6 12%	2 10%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	GENDER		AGE				HHOLD			
	1.00	Male	Female	18-35	36-50	51-64	65+	Single, No Kids	Couple, No Kids	Single, Kids	Couple, Kids
Total 1.00	232 100	107 100	107 100	24 100	62 100	103 100	31 100	49 100	75 100	15 100	83 100
COMMUNITY & HUMAN SRVCS											
Low income housing	98 42%	44 41%	42 39%	12 50%	22 35%	40 39%	19 61%	22 45%	34 45%	5 33%	31 37%
10 yr. plan end hmlsness	52 22%	25 23%	24 22%	2 8%	15 24%	26 25%	7 23%	13 27%	19 25%	3 20%	15 18%
Veterans prog	26 11%	12 11%	13 12%	1 4%	5 8%	16 16%	3 10%	7 14%	9 12%	2 13%	7 8%
Senior Prog	40 17%	18 17%	18 17%	3 13%	7 11%	21 20%	7 23%	8 16%	12 16%	4 27%	14 17%
Womens prog	11 5%	4 4%	6 6%	3 13%	3 5%	5 5%		3 6%	3 4%	1 7%	4 5%
Work Training Prog	70 30%	34 32%	35 33%	6 25%	27 44%	28 27%	7 23%	18 37%	16 21%	3 20%	32 39%
Youth & Family Srvc	87 38%	43 40%	41 38%	14 58%	26 42%	34 33%	11 35%	15 31%	30 40%	3 20%	39 47%
Civ Rts Commission/Srvcs	8 3%	5 5%	2 2%	2 8%	1 2%	4 4%		2 4%	2 3%		3 4%
Domestic Violence Trmt	27 12%	16 15%	10 9%	2 8%	5 8%	17 17%	2 6%	5 10%	7 9%	4 27%	11 13%
Other	5 2%	3 3%	2 2%		2 3%	1 1%	2 6%		4 5%		1 1%
DK/NA	40 17%	10 9%	21 20%	3 13%	11 18%	14 14%	4 13%	5 10%	14 19%	5 33%	9 11%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	INCORP		COMMUTE				ATTNGOVT		
	1.00	City	Uninc KC	Commute my community	Commute other prt county	Commute outside KC	Retired	CLOSELY	SOME	NOT AT ALL
Total 1.00	232 100	186 100	30 100	75 100	82 100	14 100	45 100	43 100	109 100	69 100
COMMUNITY & HUMAN SRVCS										
Low income housing	98 42%	79 42%	10 33%	34 45%	25 30%	5 36%	26 58%	20 47%	46 42%	26 38%
10 yr. plan end hmlsness	52 22%	43 23%	6 20%	17 23%	19 23%	2 14%	10 22%	6 14%	26 24%	19 28%
Veterans prog	26 11%	20 11%	6 20%	6 8%	12 15%		8 18%	9 21%	11 10%	5 7%
Senior Prog	40 17%	27 15%	10 33%	11 15%	13 16%	2 14%	11 24%	9 21%	21 19%	8 12%
Womens prog	11 5%	11 6%		2 3%	7 9%		2 4%	1 2%	8 7%	2 3%
Work Training Prog	70 30%	59 32%	7 23%	21 28%	27 33%	6 43%	13 29%	9 21%	31 28%	29 42%
Youth & Family Srvc	87 38%	72 39%	11 37%	34 45%	29 35%	10 71%	11 24%	16 37%	46 42%	25 36%
Civ Rts Commission/Srvcs	8 3%	4 2%	3 10%	4 5%	3 4%			1 2%	3 3%	3 4%
Domestic Violence Trmt	27 12%	23 12%	4 13%	8 11%	13 16%	3 21%	2 4%	7 16%	9 8%	10 14%
Other	5 2%	5 3%		1 1%	1 1%		2 4%		2 2%	3 4%
DK/NA	40 17%	29 16%	3 10%	12 16%	15 18%		5 11%	8 19%	15 14%	8 12%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	WRKSHP				
	1.00	Dist 5-7	Dist 1-4	Dist 3-6	Dist 2-8	Dist 9
Total 1.00	232 100	53 100	56 100	51 100	51 100	21 100
COMMUNITY & HUMAN SRVCS						
Low income housing	98 42%	21 40%	28 50%	17 33%	25 49%	7 33%
10 yr. plan end hmlsness	52 22%	10 19%	13 23%	6 12%	17 33%	6 29%
Veterans prog	26 11%	9 17%	5 9%	7 14%	4 8%	1 5%
Senior Prog	40 17%	11 21%	11 20%	6 12%	7 14%	5 24%
Womens prog	11 5%		3 5%	4 8%	4 8%	
Work Training Prog	70 30%	14 26%	19 34%	18 35%	9 18%	10 48%
Youth & Family Srvcs	87 38%	17 32%	17 30%	27 53%	17 33%	9 43%
Civ Rts Commission/Srvcs	8 3%	2 4%	1 2%	1 2%	3 6%	1 5%
Domestic Violence Trmt	27 12%	7 13%	3 5%	8 16%	8 16%	1 5%
Other	5 2%	1 2%	1 2%	2 4%	1 2%	
DK/NA	40 17%	14 26%	11 20%	6 12%	7 14%	2 10%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	GENDER		AGE			
	1.00	Male	Female	18-35	36-50	51-64	65+
Total 1.00	232 100	107 100	107 100	24 100	62 100	103 100	31 100
Roads							
Road Capacity	65 28%	39 36%	24 22%	7 29%	24 39%	24 23%	7 23%
Road Maintenance	92 40%	45 42%	41 38%	8 33%	19 31%	50 49%	13 42%
Sidewalks	18 8%	7 7%	10 9%	2 8%	7 11%	8 8%	1 3%
Traffic Sign: Imp Traffic Mngt	41 18%	11 10%	26 24%	6 25%	10 16%	17 17%	6 19%
DK/NA	16 7%	5 5%	6 6%	1 4%	2 3%	4 4%	4 13%
Trans Priorities							
Transit Imprvmts	147 63%	65 61%	74 69%	18 75%	40 65%	70 68%	14 45%
Road Imprvmts in Uninc Areas	69 30%	37 35%	27 25%	5 21%	19 31%	31 30%	12 39%
DK/NA	16 7%	5 5%	6 6%	1 4%	3 5%	2 2%	5 16%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March, 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	INCRP		COMMUTE				ATTNGOVT		
	1.00	City	Uninc KC	Commute my community	Commute other prt county	Commute outside KC	Retired	CLOSELY	SOME	NOT AT ALL
Total 1.00	232 100	186 100	30 100	75 100	82 100	14 100	45 100	43 100	109 100	69 100
Roads										
Road Capacity	65 28%	53 28%	8 27%	17 23%	28 34%	3 21%	12 27%	16 37%	29 27%	18 26%
Road Maintenance	92 40%	71 38%	16 53%	37 49%	25 30%	6 43%	21 47%	17 40%	45 41%	28 41%
Sidewalks	18 8%	16 9%	2 7%	5 7%	10 12%	2 14%	1 2%	3 7%	8 7%	7 10%
Traffic Sign: Imp Traffic Mngt	41 18%	36 19%	3 10%	14 19%	14 17%	2 14%	8 18%	5 12%	21 19%	14 20%
DK/NA	16 7%	10 5%	1 3%	2 3%	5 6%	1 7%	3 7%	2 5%	6 6%	2 3%
Trans Priorities										
Transit Imprvmts	147 63%	126 68%	14 47%	52 69%	49 60%	10 71%	29 64%	26 60%	72 66%	46 67%
Road Imprvmts in Uninc Areas	69 30%	49 26%	16 53%	21 28%	26 32%	4 29%	14 31%	14 33%	33 30%	20 29%
DK/NA	16 7%	11 6%	0 0%	2 3%	7 9%	0 0%	2 4%	3 7%	4 4%	3 4%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March, 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	WRKSHP				
	1.00	Dist 5-7	Dist 1-4	Dist 3-6	Dist 2-8	Dist 9
Total 1.00	232 100	53 100	56 100	51 100	51 100	21 100
Roads						
Road Capacity	65 28%	12 23%	10 18%	23 45%	11 22%	9 43%
Road Maintenance	92 40%	21 40%	27 48%	18 35%	23 45%	3 14%
Sidewalks	18 8%	2 4%	7 13%	0 0%	6 12%	3 14%
Traffic Sign: Imp Traffic Mngt	41 18%	16 30%	8 14%	7 14%	6 12%	4 19%
DK/NA	16 7%	2 4%	4 7%	3 6%	5 10%	2 10%
Trans Priorities						
Transit Imprvmts	147 63%	28 53%	45 80%	25 49%	33 65%	16 76%
Road Imprvmts in Uninc Areas	69 30%	22 42%	8 14%	21 41%	13 25%	5 24%
DK/NA	16 7%	3 6%	3 5%	5 10%	5 10%	0 0%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March, 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	GENDER		AGE				HHOLD			
	1.00	Male	Female	18-35	36-50	51-64	65+	Single, No Kids	Couple, No Kids	Single, Kids	Couple, Kids
Total 1.00	232 100	107 100	107 100	24 100	62 100	103 100	31 100	49 100	75 100	15 100	83 100
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRO											
Bldg Code Permits	36 16%	13 12%	18 17%	1 4%	12 19%	17 17%	4 13%	2 4%	11 15%	5 33%	18 22%
Farmland Preservation	60 26%	25 23%	32 30%	4 17%	11 18%	33 32%	10 32%	16 33%	22 29%	4 27%	17 20%
Flood Ctrl	81 35%	38 36%	38 36%	11 46%	14 23%	42 41%	13 42%	22 45%	25 33%	4 27%	29 35%
Habitat Conservation	72 31%	30 28%	38 36%	9 38%	20 32%	34 33%	6 19%	16 33%	20 27%	5 33%	28 34%
Parks & Open Space	78 34%	39 36%	33 31%	14 58%	26 42%	28 27%	7 23%	13 27%	23 31%	6 40%	34 41%
Regional trails	17 7%	8 7%	8 7%		6 10%	7 7%	3 10%	5 10%	5 7%		7 8%
Salmon Habitat Restoration	37 16%	20 19%	14 13%	2 8%	12 19%	15 15%	5 16%	7 14%	13 17%	3 20%	11 13%
Storm Water Srvcs	49 21%	27 25%	20 19%	3 13%	17 27%	18 17%	10 32%	13 27%	22 29%	1 7%	12 14%
Other	3 1%	2 2%	1 1%		1 2%	1 1%	1 3%		2 3%		1 1%
DK/NA	31 13%	12 11%	12 11%	4 17%	5 8%	11 11%	3 10%	4 8%	7 9%	2 13%	9 11%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	INCORP		COMMUTE				ATTNGOVT		
	1.00	City	Uninc KC	Commute my community	Commute other prt county	Commute outside KC	Retired	CLOSELY	SOME	NOT AT ALL
Total 1.00	232 100	186 100	30 100	75 100	82 100	14 100	45 100	43 100	109 100	69 100
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRO										
Bldg Code Permits	36 16%	28 15%	5 17%	8 11%	18 22%	3 21%	7 16%	7 16%	21 19%	8 12%
Farmland Preservation	60 26%	52 28%	7 23%	18 24%	22 27%	4 29%	12 27%	15 35%	31 28%	13 19%
Flood Ctrl	81 35%	67 36%	11 37%	21 28%	29 35%	8 57%	23 51%	16 37%	35 32%	29 42%
Habitat Conservation	72 31%	59 32%	10 33%	29 39%	25 30%	1 7%	11 24%	14 33%	33 30%	23 33%
Parks & Open Space	78 34%	68 37%	7 23%	28 37%	25 30%	4 29%	16 36%	11 26%	40 37%	25 36%
Regional trails	17 7%	13 7%	2 7%	5 7%	5 6%	1 7%	4 9%	5 12%	8 7%	4 6%
Salmon Habitat Restoration	37 16%	28 15%	6 20%	10 13%	15 18%	3 21%	4 9%	7 16%	16 15%	11 16%
Storm Water Srvcs	49 21%	40 22%	7 23%	18 24%	18 22%	3 21%	9 20%	7 16%	27 25%	13 19%
Other	3 1%	2 1%	1 3%	1 1%			2 4%		2 2%	1 1%
DK/NA	31 13%	15 8%	4 13%	12 16%	7 9%	1 7%	2 4%	4 9%	5 5%	11 16%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	WRKSHP				
	1.00	Dist 5-7	Dist 1-4	Dist 3-6	Dist 2-8	Dist 9
Total 1.00	232 100	53 100	56 100	51 100	51 100	21 100
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRO						
Bldg Code Permits	36 16%	13 25%	8 14%	4 8%	4 8%	7 33%
Farmland Preservation	60 26%	13 25%	15 27%	8 16%	20 39%	4 19%
Flood Ctrl	81 35%	21 40%	16 29%	24 47%	13 25%	7 33%
Habitat Conservation	72 31%	14 26%	24 43%	13 25%	17 33%	4 19%
Parks & Open Space	78 34%	18 34%	18 32%	21 41%	13 25%	8 38%
Regional trails	17 7%	4 8%	1 2%	7 14%	2 4%	3 14%
Salmon Habitat Restoration	37 16%	8 15%	7 13%	8 16%	12 24%	2 10%
Storm Water Srvcs	49 21%	9 17%	16 29%	8 16%	11 22%	5 24%
Other	3 1%			1 2%	2 4%	
DK/NA	31 13%	6 11%	7 13%	8 16%	8 16%	2 10%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. March 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	GENDER		AGE			
	1.00	Male	Female	18-35	36-50	51-64	65+
Total 1.00	232 100	107 100	107 100	24 100	62 100	103 100	31 100
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Use of Public Money							
Excellent	3 1%	2 2%	1 1%	0 0%	1 2%	1 1%	1 3%
2	24 10%	15 14%	9 8%	3 13%	5 8%	10 10%	6 19%
3	69 30%	30 28%	33 31%	5 21%	15 24%	35 34%	11 35%
4	59 25%	27 25%	27 25%	10 42%	18 29%	25 24%	3 10%
5	43 19%	15 14%	27 25%	3 13%	16 26%	19 18%	3 10%
Poor	23 10%	15 14%	5 5%	3 13%	6 10%	11 11%	1 3%
DK/NA	11 5%	3 3%	5 5%	0 0%	1 2%	2 2%	6 19%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Citizen Engagement							
Excellent	5 2%	2 2%	3 3%	0 0%	3 5%	2 2%	0 0%
2	24 10%	13 12%	11 10%	5 21%	7 11%	6 6%	6 19%
3	41 18%	19 18%	20 19%	1 4%	7 11%	23 22%	9 29%
4	50 22%	25 23%	21 20%	3 13%	15 24%	26 25%	3 10%
5	68 29%	32 30%	29 27%	9 38%	21 34%	27 26%	6 19%
Poor	32 14%	11 10%	18 17%	5 21%	8 13%	13 13%	5 16%
DK/NA	12 5%	5 5%	5 5%	1 4%	1 2%	6 6%	2 6%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Customer Service							
Excellent	4 2%	2 2%	2 2%	0 0%	0 0%	3 3%	1 3%
2	16 7%	8 7%	7 7%	1 4%	4 6%	5 5%	5 16%
3	61 26%	33 31%	25 23%	6 25%	18 29%	24 23%	11 35%
4	51 22%	21 20%	25 23%	7 29%	10 16%	26 25%	4 13%
5	47 20%	22 21%	20 19%	6 25%	15 24%	20 19%	4 13%
Poor	39 17%	17 16%	21 20%	4 17%	15 24%	17 17%	2 6%
DK/NA	14 6%	4 4%	7 7%	0 0%	0 0%	8 8%	4 13%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Perf Measure/Report							
Excellent	2 1%	1 1%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 6%
2	8 3%	5 5%	3 3%	1 4%	1 2%	5 5%	1 3%
3	42 18%	15 14%	26 24%	2 8%	12 19%	18 17%	9 29%
4	59 25%	25 23%	28 26%	7 29%	12 19%	31 30%	5 16%
5	65 28%	36 34%	26 24%	6 25%	20 32%	27 26%	9 29%
Poor	43 19%	20 19%	19 18%	7 29%	16 26%	16 16%	3 10%
DK/NA	13 6%	5 5%	4 4%	1 4%	1 2%	6 6%	2 6%

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC. MARCH, 2007

KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	INCORP		COMMUTE				ATTNGOVT		
	1.00	City	Uninc KC	Commute my communi ty	Commute other prt county	Commute outside KC	Retired	CLOSELY	SOME	NOT AT ALL
Total 1.00	232 100	186 100	30 100	75 100	82 100	14 100	45 100	43 100	109 100	69 100
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Use of Public Money										
Excellent	3 1%	2 1%	0 0%	1 1%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 2%	0 0%
2	24 10%	20 11%	3 10%	9 12%	8 10%	1 7%	5 11%	5 12%	7 6%	12 17%
3	69 30%	59 32%	6 20%	24 32%	19 23%	3 21%	19 42%	9 21%	33 30%	24 35%
4	59 25%	49 26%	6 20%	18 24%	24 29%	5 36%	8 18%	11 26%	30 28%	15 22%
5	43 19%	34 18%	8 27%	15 20%	16 20%	3 21%	6 13%	6 14%	27 25%	9 13%
Poor	23 10%	14 8%	6 20%	7 9%	9 11%	2 14%	4 9%	11 26%	7 6%	5 7%
DK/NA	11 5%	8 4%	1 3%	1 1%	5 6%	0 0%	3 7%	1 2%	3 3%	4 6%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Citizen Engagement										
Excellent	5 2%	5 3%	0 0%	3 4%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	1 2%	3 3%	1 1%
2	24 10%	21 11%	3 10%	8 11%	10 12%	0 0%	6 13%	2 5%	14 13%	8 12%
3	41 18%	34 18%	5 17%	13 17%	10 12%	3 21%	14 31%	8 19%	19 17%	13 19%
4	50 22%	45 24%	2 7%	14 19%	20 24%	3 21%	9 20%	10 23%	25 23%	14 20%
5	68 29%	51 27%	11 37%	23 31%	25 30%	7 50%	8 18%	11 26%	33 30%	20 29%
Poor	32 14%	22 12%	7 23%	9 12%	13 16%	1 7%	7 16%	10 23%	12 11%	9 13%
DK/NA	12 5%	8 4%	2 7%	5 7%	3 4%	0 0%	1 2%	1 2%	3 3%	4 6%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Customer Service										
Excellent	4 2%	4 2%	0 0%	2 3%	0 0%	0 0%	2 4%	0 0%	3 3%	1 1%
2	16 7%	12 6%	2 7%	7 9%	4 5%	0 0%	3 7%	4 9%	7 6%	3 4%
3	61 26%	54 29%	5 17%	18 24%	20 24%	4 29%	17 38%	10 23%	30 28%	20 29%
4	51 22%	42 23%	4 13%	18 24%	18 22%	3 21%	7 16%	6 14%	27 25%	15 22%
5	47 20%	38 20%	6 20%	12 16%	18 22%	3 21%	11 24%	12 28%	18 17%	15 22%
Poor	39 17%	25 13%	12 40%	14 19%	17 21%	3 21%	3 7%	10 23%	21 19%	8 12%
DK/NA	14 6%	11 6%	1 3%	4 5%	5 6%	1 7%	2 4%	1 2%	3 3%	7 10%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Perf Measure/Report										
Excellent	2 1%	2 1%	0 0%	0 0%	1 1%	0 0%	1 2%	2 5%	0 0%	0 0%
2	8 3%	5 3%	3 10%	4 5%	3 4%	0 0%	1 2%	2 5%	3 3%	3 4%
3	42 18%	36 19%	3 10%	17 23%	10 12%	2 14%	10 22%	6 14%	18 17%	16 23%
4	59 25%	47 25%	6 20%	20 27%	19 23%	3 21%	14 31%	8 19%	31 28%	16 23%
5	65 28%	55 30%	7 23%	16 21%	28 34%	5 36%	13 29%	12 28%	30 28%	21 30%
Poor	43 19%	31 17%	10 33%	14 19%	16 20%	4 29%	5 11%	10 23%	24 22%	9 13%
DK/NA	13 6%	10 5%	1 3%	4 5%	5 6%	0 0%	1 2%	3 7%	3 3%	4 6%

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KC BUDGET - March 2007

	Total	WRKSHP				
	1.00	Dist 5-7	Dist 1-4	Dist 3-6	Dist 2-8	Dist 9
Total 1.00	232 100	53 100	56 100	51 100	51 100	21 100
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Use of Public Money						
Excellent	3 1%	1 2%	1 2%	0 0%	1 2%	0 0%
2	24 10%	1 2%	10 18%	7 14%	5 10%	1 5%
3	69 30%	11 21%	21 38%	10 20%	23 45%	4 19%
4	59 25%	18 34%	12 21%	8 16%	13 25%	8 38%
5	43 19%	12 23%	7 13%	13 25%	5 10%	6 29%
Poor	23 10%	7 13%	3 5%	9 18%	2 4%	2 10%
DK/NA	11 5%	3 6%	2 4%	4 8%	2 4%	0 0%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Citizen Engagement						
Excellent	5 2%	1 2%	2 4%	2 4%	0 0%	0 0%
2	24 10%	2 4%	14 25%	0 0%	7 14%	1 5%
3	41 18%	10 19%	11 20%	6 12%	13 25%	1 5%
4	50 22%	16 30%	13 23%	6 12%	9 18%	6 29%
5	68 29%	9 17%	12 21%	25 49%	15 29%	7 33%
Poor	32 14%	12 23%	2 4%	10 20%	4 8%	4 19%
DK/NA	12 5%	3 6%	2 4%	2 4%	3 6%	2 10%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Customer Service						
Excellent	4 2%	1 2%	2 4%	1 2%	0 0%	0 0%
2	16 7%	1 2%	9 16%	2 4%	3 6%	1 5%
3	61 26%	6 11%	18 32%	12 24%	17 33%	8 38%
4	51 22%	17 32%	11 20%	5 10%	14 27%	4 19%
5	47 20%	10 19%	10 18%	15 29%	10 20%	2 10%
Poor	39 17%	16 30%	3 5%	11 22%	4 8%	5 24%
DK/NA	14 6%	2 4%	3 5%	5 10%	3 6%	1 5%
KING COUNTY PERFORMANCE: Perf Measure/Report						
Excellent	2 1%	0 0%	1 2%	0 0%	1 2%	0 0%
2	8 3%	1 2%	1 2%	1 2%	5 10%	0 0%
3	42 18%	8 15%	17 30%	7 14%	9 18%	1 5%
4	59 25%	16 30%	18 32%	6 12%	12 24%	7 33%
5	65 28%	17 32%	9 16%	14 27%	17 33%	8 38%
Poor	43 19%	9 17%	7 13%	20 39%	4 8%	3 14%
DK/NA	13 6%	2 4%	3 5%	3 6%	3 6%	2 10%

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