

Re-investing in Neighborhoods and Community

Highlights of Seattle City Council's 2011-12 Budget Actions

Community Centers:

- Provides funding to restore a total of 75 drop-in hours at five Community Centers.
- Preserves 2,000 square feet of space for community purposes at the Green Lake Community Center, by limiting the number of staff offices that will be relocated to the facility.
- Requests that the Parks Department conduct a comprehensive evaluation of operational, staffing and management model for all the City's Community centers.

Neighborhoods:

- Restores \$300,000 per year to the City's Neighborhood Matching Fund, which has provided critical support to community projects across the City.
- Provides sufficient funding to avoid the layoff of three of the six neighborhood district coordinators that would have been terminated under the Mayor's budget.
- Requests the Executive to evaluate the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) community outreach and engagement activities and the resources used to support these functions.
- Provides funding to avoid closure of the West Seattle (Delridge) Neighborhood Service Center.
- Restores funding for a popular senior center in the City's International District (ID), as well as a crime prevention and neighborhood service foot patrol in the ID.
- Restores funding for Department of Correction's crews that provide neighborhood clean-up services in Southeast Seattle.

Human Services:

- Provides nearly \$200,000 in funding to establish a full-time winter shelter in City Hall and to address increasing costs experienced by existing shelter providers.
- Restores funding for the Master Home Environmentalist program that helps asthma victims address home-based environmental factors that aggravate their condition.
- Restores almost \$150,000 to continue subsidies that allow low-income offenders to participate in domestic violence batterer's treatment programs.
- Restores 2010 funding levels for human services-related policy advocacy and for non-profit capacity building.
- Adds \$20,000 per year for the Safe Havens program, which provides a safe visitation center for the children of families affected by domestic violence.

Public Safety:

- Restores funding for Crime Victim Advocates proposed to be cut in the Mayor's 2011-2012 proposed budget.

- Preserves sufficient funding to implement the Seattle Police Departments Neighborhood Policing Program

Libraries:

- Provides \$220,000 in capital funding for both 2011 and 2012 to support major maintenance projects throughout the library system.

On-Street Parking Policy:

- Establishes a clear policy basis for setting parking meter rates – namely the regular turn-over of vehicles and the availability of one or two vacant spaces per block face.
- Provides funding for comprehensive vacancy study of on-street parking before new meter rates will be set in 2011.
- Provides funding for on-going annual assessments to support of finer geographic distinctions in parking meter rates, and ultimately to allow rates that vary by time of day.
- Sets a maximum hourly meter rate of \$4.00, a minimum rate of \$0.75.

Transportation:

- Rejects the Mayor's proposal to increase the commercial parking tax from 12.5% to 17.5%, while still providing the Seattle Department of Transportation \$2.2 million in additional funding per year.
- Directs an additional \$2.2 million per year in funding to support critical transportation investments, with an emphasis on infrastructure that serves pedestrians and bicycles.

Other:

- Restores funding for staff support to the following four Commissions: Women's Commission, LGBT Commission, Disabilities Commission and the Civil Rights Commission.
- Provides \$300,000 in one-time funding to support the capital needs of arts organizations.
- Restores funding for staff in DON's Historic Preservation program to help ensure the timely processing of nominations and waivers.
- Sets firm targets for reduction in management costs that total nearly \$3 million in 2012.
- Reduces total City employment by nearly 300 positions.
- Avoids broad-based tax increases.