



## CITY OF KIRKLAND

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3000

www.kirklandwa.gov

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**Date:** January 31, 2012  
**Subject:** FINAL 2012 CITY COUNCIL RETREAT PLANNING

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council provides final direction on topics for the upcoming 2012 Council retreat.

#### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The annual Council retreat will be held on Friday, March 23 and Saturday March 24. Traditionally the Council retreat dedicates significant amounts of time to three or four major topics of discussion. At the January 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting the City Manager provided the following suggested retreat topics:

- Discussion of a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) or 2012 roads ballot measure
- Discussion of a 2012 Parks ballot measure
- Financial update
- Briefing on enhanced public engagement efforts in 2012 for 2013-2014 budget
- 2013-2014 budget priorities and themes
- Council brainstorming session
- Potential Council tour:
  - to tour roads for maintenance needs
  - park facilities to identify park needs
  - Kirkland Segment of the Eastside Rail Corridor

Since the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting individual Councilmembers have met with or provided feedback to the City Manager about changes or additional topics to be discussed at the retreat. Those suggestions are listed below.

## **Councilmember suggested topics:**

Councilmembers concurred with:

- Discussion of a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) or 2012 roads ballot measure
- Discussion of a 2012 Parks ballot measure
- Financial update
- Briefing on enhanced public engagement efforts in 2012 for 2013-2014 budget
- 2013-2014 budget priorities and themes

In addition, Councilmembers have suggested the following:

- *Review the Mission, Vision and Value Statements for the City.* Since the Council has recently reviewed and adopted the City Goals, it has been suggested that 2012 would be a good time to review and update the Mission, Vision and Values to ensure they are up to date and consistent with the Goals.
- *Improving Customer Service in Kirkland*
- *Reviewing Kirkland tax and fee structures for competitiveness and equity*
- *Focusing on jobs and economic development and remaining "nimble" to seize opportunities while preserving community trust*
- *Communications Training and Team Building.* Members who attended the AWC event in Olympia learned that the Redmond City Council and Mayor had recently done some communications training that they felt was helpful. Several Kirkland Councilmembers have suggested doing similar team building given that three new Councilmembers were elected in November of 2009 and a new member joined the Council in January of 2012.

There did not seem to be a great deal of interest in spending Council retreat time on touring. That does create the possibility of using Saturday for communications and team building.

Some of these other suggested topics could also be discussed under a "Council brainstorming" session and then referred to Council subcommittees for additional work throughout the year.

Staff is seeking direction from the full Council on final retreat topics at the February 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. After approval, staff will complete specific retreat planning and logistics and report back to the Council at the February 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.