



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Jennifer Schroder, Director
Michael Cogle, Deputy Director

Date: September 17, 2012

Subject: Presentation of 30-Year Service Award to Sharon Anderson

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council recognizes Sharon Anderson for 30 years of service to the citizens of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Sharon Anderson has been a dedicated and respected member of the Parks and Community Services Department since 1982. Originally hired as Director of the Kirkland Senior Center, Sharon developed many of the facility's major programs and services which are still in place today. During Sharon's 14-year tenure as Senior Center Director, the facility itself was expanded to keep up with the increasing programs that she initiated, including a significant expansion of recreation and lifelong learning classes as well as a variety of health and legal assistance services.

In 1987 (while still directing the Senior Center) Sharon was asked to create and manage a brand new service arena for the City – human services. In recognition of an ever-increasing need to meet the basic needs of citizens, and in response to decreasing resources at the federal, state, and county levels, Kirkland became one of the first suburban cities in the area to dedicate on-going grant funding to social service agencies. Sharon was charged with developing grant policies and application materials, and soon a Council-appointed Human Services Advisory Committee was formed to provide guidance. Her knowledge of the issues, her experience working with non-profits and with advisory groups, and her passion for helping those in need made Sharon the perfect City staff member to take on this challenge. She has been overseeing the program ever since. That first year, the City granted about \$40,000 to four non-profit agencies. Twenty five years later, the City now grants over \$600,000 annually to dozens of separate human services programs.

In 1996 Sharon began to focus solely on coordinating the City's human services activities. In her ongoing role as Kirkland's Human Services Coordinator, Sharon has ably represented our

community on local and regional issues. She is a strong advocate for the Eastside cross-jurisdictional system for human services, and is active with the Committee to End Homelessness, Eastside Human Services Forum, the Alliance of Eastside Agencies, Nourishing Networks, and the Community Development Block Grant program, just to name a few.

In recent years Sharon has also become a key contributor to the organization's emergency response planning. In addition to representing the Parks and Community Services Department on the City's Emergency Management Action Team, Sharon has strengthened our strategic planning for the emergency sheltering of citizens in the event of a disaster. Sharon has also been asked to provide staff support for the Kirkland Senior Council, a dynamic group of citizens dedicated to improving the lives of Kirkland's older population.

Sharon has the longest tenure of any Parks and Community Services Department employee in the City's history, one which her colleagues hope will continue for many more years to come.