



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Tracy Burrows, Senior Management Analyst

Date: March 21, 2008

Subject: 2008 Legislative Session Status Report

The 2008 Legislative Session ended on March 13th. The Legislature acted on a number of priority issues on Kirkland's legislative agenda, most notably related to municipal courts and climate change. Of the fourteen priority issues on Kirkland's legislative agenda, the Legislature passed bills making progress on eight.

High on the City's priority list was the adoption of legislation affirming cities' ability to contract with one another for court services. Following years of advocacy for this bill, the Legislature finally acted to codify the findings of the *Primm* case allowing cities to contract with municipal courts for services.

Another priority issue for the City was permanent funding for public safety and local infrastructure. The legislature made progress on public safety funding, adopting SB 6573 that provides funds for cities for criminal justice, public safety and information and assistance to parents and families dealing with at-risk or runaway youth. Appropriations will begin in 2011 with \$5 million for the biennium, increasing to a maximum of \$50 million by 2017 and for future biennia. The first distribution to cities and counties will be made in January of 2012. Distributions are based on each city's share of LEOFF 2 employees. Kirkland currently employs 148 of the 16,000 LEOFF personnel state-wide (.925%). The Legislature tinkered with infrastructure funding, but did not make progress toward a comprehensive Tax Increment Funding program. The infrastructure funding that was allocated was focused on economically distressed communities and rural areas.

Also consistent with the City's priorities, the legislature made major investments in affordable housing. The Capital Budget includes \$90 million for the Housing Trust Fund, Transitional Housing (THOR) and a new rapid response loan program to help communities secure affordable housing properties in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. The attached Figure 1 shows the eastside projects that have received Housing Trust Fund monies since 1993.

One of the major disappointments of the session was the failure to pass legislation that would have granted the Cascade Water Alliance eminent domain powers strictly for water utility purposes. It is likely that this legislation will be introduced next session.

The following table illustrates the progress that was made on the City's 2008 legislative agenda in each of the priority areas.

FIGURE 1
ARCH: EAST KING COUNTY TRUST FUND SUMMARY
LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED (1993 - Fall 2007)

Project	Location	Owner	# Units	Housing Trust Fund
1. Family Housing				
Andrews Heights Apartments	Bellevue	St. Andrews	24	\$1,500,000
Wildwood Apartments	Bellevue	DASH	36	\$795,000
Somerset Gardents (Kona)	Bellevue	KC Housing Authority	198	\$200,000
Chalet Apts	Bellevue	St Andrews	14	\$600,000
	K.C.			
	(Issaquah			
Highland Gardens (Klahanie)	Sphere)	St. Andrews	54	\$1,175,000
Avon Villa Mobile Home Park	Redmond	MHCP	93	\$1,050,226
Terrace Hills	Redmond	St. Andrews	18	\$986,529
		KC Housing Authority		
Village at Overlake Station	Redmond	DASH	308	\$1,500,000
Summerwood	Redmond	DASH	166	\$1,200,000
RoseCrest	Issaquah	St. Andrews	40	\$1,300,000
Mine Hill	Issaquah	St. Andrews	28	\$500,000
Issaquah Highlands Property	Issaquah	SAHG/SRI	45	\$1,350,000
Greenbrier Family Apts	Woodinville	DASH	50	\$730,000
Plum Court	Kirkland	DASH	61	\$800,000
Kenmore Court	Kenmore	LIHI	33	\$500,000
SUB-TOTAL			1659	\$14,186,755
2. Senior Housing				
Cambridge Court	Bellevue	Resurrection Housing	20	\$850,000
Ashwood Court	Bellevue	DASH/Shelter Resources	50	\$544,062
Evergreen Court (Assisted Living)	Bellevue	DASH/Shelter Resources	64	\$550,000
Kirkland Plaza	Kirkland	St. Andrews	24	\$318,135
	Mercer			
Ellsworth House Apts	Island	St. Andrews	59	\$1,000,000
		DASH/Shelter		
Greenbrier Sr Apts	Woodinville	Resources	50	\$470,000
SUB-TOTAL			417	\$3,732,197
3. Homeless/Transitional Housing				
Hopelink Place	Bellevue	Hopelink Housing at Crossroads	20	\$987,659
Kensington Square	Bellevue		6	\$318,618
Dixie Price Transitional Housing	Redmond	Hopelink Springboard (EHA)	4	\$115,632
Avondale Park Redevelopment	Redmond		60	\$1,300,000
SUB-TOTAL			113	\$2,721,909
4. Special Needs Housing				
My Friends Place	Uninc. KC	EDVP	6	\$240,000
Foster Care Home	Kirkland	Friends of Youth	4	\$133,783
DD Group Home 4	Redmond	Community Living	5	\$125,000
DD Group Homes 5 & 6	Redmond/T	Community Living	10	\$665,000
United Cerebral Palsy	Bellevue/Redmond	UCP	9	\$33,891
DD Group Home	Bellevue	Residence East	5	\$90,000
Harrington House	Bellevue	AHA/CCS	8	\$225,095
		Community Living		
DD Group Home 3	Bellevue		5	\$75,000
Parkview DD Condos III	Bellevue	Parkview	4	\$192,000
IERR DD Home	Issaquah	IERR	6	\$172,967
Oxford House	Bothell	Oxford/Compass Ctr.	8	\$219,668
	Bellevue/Bothell			
Parkview DD Homes VI	Bothell	Parkview	6	\$302,738
SUB-TOTAL			109	\$2,475,142
TOTAL			2298	\$23,116,003.00

Issue	Kirkland's 2008 Legislative Agenda	Bill Number	2008 Status/Summary
Municipal Courts	<i>Kirkland supports cities' ability to form municipal courts and is working to preserve all options for providing municipal court services in the future.</i>	2SHB 2557	Municipal Courts of Limited Jurisdiction – this Bill codifies the <i>Primm v. Medina</i> case clarifying the authority of cities to contract with another city for municipal court services.
Public Safety	<i>Kirkland supports legislation that provides additional funding options for public safety purposes, including public safety facilities.</i>	ESSB 6573	This bill provides funds for cities for criminal justice, public safety and information and assistance to parents and families dealing with at-risk or runaway youth. Appropriations will begin in 2011 with \$5 million for the biennium, increasing to a maximum of \$50 million by 2017 and for future biennia. The first distribution to cities and counties will be made in January of 2012. Distributions are based on each city's share of LEOFF 2 employees
Annexation	<i>Kirkland supports legislation that extends the deadline for eligibility for the State annexation sales tax credit and that provides additional funding options for annexation-related expenses.</i>		No legislation adopted this session.
Infrastructure Funding	<i>Kirkland supports legislation that provides a new permanent source of funding for infrastructure.</i>	ESHB 2765	The Capital budget allocates \$10M from the Public Works Assistance Account to create a pilot program by providing grants to local governments to "demonstrate options for the most efficient use of the states investment in local infrastructure by funding more projects at an accelerated rate." The proviso directs the pilot project to use projects that just missed the cut on the current PWB list, and adds in 2 categories to target areas that are economically distressed and jurisdictions with unused debt capacity.
Eminent Domain	<i>The City of Kirkland supports clear condemnation authority to Cascade Water Alliance.</i>	HB 1561	This bill passed out of the House, but did not progress in the Senate.

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Gas Tax Distribution	<i>Kirkland supports legislation to implement a more equitable distribution of the state gas tax, with an increased share allocated to cities.</i>		No gas tax legislation adopted this year.
Housing	<i>Kirkland supports increasing the Housing Trust Fund through significant contributions to the Fund to support statewide public-private investment in low-income housing.</i>	ESHB 2765	\$90 Million was included in the State capital budget for the Housing Trust Fund and low-income housing initiatives.
Telecommunications	<i>Kirkland supports maintaining local franchising and opposes any legislation that would create a statewide franchise.</i>		No statewide telecommunications franchise was granted this year.
Gambling	<i>Kirkland supports legislation that would clarify that local governments have the ability to ban and zone gambling activities.</i>		No gambling legislation was introduced this year.
Climate Change	<i>Kirkland supports legislation that builds on the land use and transportation planning that is already required of state and local governments to help accomplish the State's adopted greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.</i>	ESSB 6580	Local solutions to climate change - This bill establishes a stakeholder process to evaluate what changes, if any, are appropriate to help cities and counties address climate change, and it establishes a pilot program to fund cities or counties wishing to address this issue.
Climate Change	<i>Kirkland also supports legislation that implements the Governor's Climate Advisory Team recommendations and that provides monetary incentives for reducing vehicle miles traveled and increasing fuel efficiency through annual motor vehicle license fees.</i>	HB 2815	<p>Framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions – Under this bill, the State will develop a required reporting system to monitor greenhouse gas emissions and WS DOT will develop recommendations to reduce annual per capita vehicle miles traveled.</p> <p>\$2.65 million was included in the supplemental operating budget for climate change initiatives</p>

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Local Farms – Healthy Kids	<i>Kirkland supports legislation that will address:(1) establishing a state Farm to School Program, (2) improving state procurement policies to increase institutional purchasing from local farms, and (3) dedicating state funds to jump start school, food bank and other institutional purchases from local sources.</i>	SB 6483	This bill strengthens links between state agriculture and state food procurement to expand local markets, improve nutrition, and benefit the environment. The bill creates four programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Farm-to-School Program; • a Washington Grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Program administered by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; • a Farmers Market Technology Improvement Pilot Program; and • a Farmers to Food Banks Pilot Program.
Evergreen Cities	<i>Kirkland supports the development of a statewide performance standards and grants program to enable cities and counties to restore their urban forests.</i>	E2SHB 2844	This bill outlines a process by which stakeholders and agencies work together to develop a series of model approaches to protect and care for trees, while the Department of Natural Resources embarks upon a statewide inventory and assessment of trees in cities. Once model approaches are available, cities choosing to implement them would receive "preference" when applying for various state grants and loans.
Campaign Finance	<i>Kirkland supports the passage of legislation that would remove the prohibition against the use of public funds to finance campaigns for local office and would allow cities, towns, and counties to determine whether and how to fund campaigns for local office.</i>	ESSB 5278	This bill removes the prohibition against the use of public funds to finance political campaigns for local office. Before a local government may adopt public funding, it must be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection. If a county, city, town, or district establishes a programs to publicly finance local political campaigns, only funds derived from local sources may be used to fund the program.
Performance Audit Reimbursement	<i>Kirkland supports legislation that would reimburse local governments for the direct expenses related to the completion of and response to state performance audits. This reimbursement would be made from the Performance Audits of Government Account established by Initiative 900.</i>	SB 6450	This bill made it out of the Senate, but did not get a Hearing in the House. It would have reimbursed school districts for the costs of gathering and assembling information requested by the performance audit team.