

NEWS RELEASE

July 27, 2009

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Second Series of 'Priorities of Government' Workshops

Last month, the Human Resources Department of Mason County conducted two workshops requesting citizen input regarding 'Priorities of Government' amid this difficult economic period. The input received at these workshops, coupled with the telephone calls and email responses, has been overwhelming. As a result, I have compiled a comprehensive list of those 'priorities' as voiced by Mason County citizens regarding where taxpayer dollars and emphasis should be placed, with the County's limited funds, for the 2010 budgetary year.

Now, the Human Resources Department would like to conduct a second series of workshops in several locations within Mason County. At this time, I hope to take the list of 'priorities' and place them in a ranked-order, ranging from the 'highest of priorities' to the 'lowest'. After conducting this second set of workshops, I intend to present this ranked list to the Board of County Commissioners on or before September 1st, when they are set to receive the proposed budgets of the various departments within the County. This 'Priorities' list will be advisory in nature only, proposing where the County's limited funds should be appropriated for the 2010 budgetary year. Adopting a workable 2010 Budget will no easy for the Commissioners amid this present economic recession, but hope this ranked list will help to provide insight and clarity regarding the 'priorities' of Mason County citizens during this trying economic period.

I propose the following workshops- On Tuesday, August 4th (next Tuesday), I will be holding a meeting starting at 6 p.m. in Memorial Hall in Shelton. On August 6th (next Thursday), I will be holding another workshop at the Port of Allyn starting at 6 p.m. I am also planning to have two more workshops the following week as well, with the dates, times, and locations to be named at next week's Mason County Board of Commissioner Meeting. In preparation of these workshops, I will have the list of 'priorities' from the earlier workshops posted on the Mason County webpage under the 'Human Resources' heading on the left-hand side of the website's main page, for anyone who wishes to review these 'priorities' before the upcoming workshops.

Mason County is committed to providing the best package of services possible despite its limited resources and your input is welcomed. If you are interested in expressing your opinion(s), but are unable to attend either of the two upcoming workshops, you are still welcome to express your views and opinions during the 'Open Forum for Citizen Input' during the regular Mason County Board of Commissioner Meetings each Tuesday. If unable to attend those meetings as well, you are still welcome to provide input by contacting myself, T.J. Martin at 360-427-9670 extension 424, or else via written input by emailing me at tjm@co.mason.wa.us.

T.J. Martin
Human Resources Director
For Mason County