

CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

October 21, 2011

This week I had the opportunity to attend a grant and loan workshop in Bremerton sponsored by Senator Murray. With the elimination of federal earmarks, only grants and loans will provide the options for securing federal funding. In spite of the federal budget reductions, there appears to be many funding opportunities for projects related to transportation, public safety, and energy projects. Following the workshop, I was able to meet with federal funding liaisons for both Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell to discuss the waterfront project. They have requested additional information on this project to help them to identify some specific funding resources. I was also able to get a commitment from Senator Cantwell's Olympic Peninsula Regional Director to visit Port Angeles next month and tour the waterfront area.

Another significant meeting held this week was the housing and homeless forum sponsored by Serenity House in Blynn. There was a large turnout from both Jefferson and Clallam Counties so there appears to be a lot of interest in improving local opportunities for affordable housing. One of the key points emphasized at the meeting was the need for regional collaboration so that various agencies can cooperate on grant proposals rather than compete with each other. In addition to quality affordable housing, there is also a critical need in this area for accessible support services. Speakers at the workshop shared information on recent projects in Seattle and Portland that have been well-received by these communities.

As reported recently in the local newspaper, the County is currently considering the possibility of proposing a .1 % juvenile justice sales tax. According to Jim Jones, County Administrator, this tax would generate about \$950,000 a year. Currently the County's juvenile facilities have a net cost to the County of about \$1.8 million and the County has discussed the need for this new tax revenue in order to close some of this funding gap. The County is considering scheduling this for a county-wide election in February, 2012 and this election would cost about \$84,000. If passed by voters, the tax proceeds would go directly to the County with no sharing to local communities. However, this tax would not impact our city's future taxing abilities.

Next week Nathan West and I will meet with the realtor who is handling the Birdwell property where Price Ford is currently located. With the relocation of Price Ford to their new site in the next several months, it is important that we work closely with the property owner and their representative to explore development opportunities on this key site located on Front Street.

Also, next week City staff will be involved with representatives of NOAA in their long-range planning process for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Finally, this serves as a reminder of the work session on the 2012 Budget on Tuesday, October 25, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Kent Myers
City Manager