



**City of Seattle**  
**Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**  
Bernie Agor Matsuno, Director

November 21, 2011

RE: Adopted 2012 City Budget

Dear DON Program Stakeholders:

This afternoon Seattle City Council voted to adopt the 2012 City Budget <http://www.seattle.gov/council/budget/>. Below I have outlined for you how this new budget will affect Seattle Department of Neighborhoods beginning in January:

- The Neighborhood Payment and Information Services Program and the operation and management of the Neighborhood Service Centers will move to the Finance and Administrative Services Department (FAS). The entire team (NPIS Manager, Customer Service Representatives (CSR) and an IT position) will move. This transfer achieves the Mayor's goals by aligning customer service and bill-paying functions within one department (FAS) and maintains, if not increases customer service delivery. Under FAS, community members will continue to receive the same great support that our CSRs have always provided. (Neighborhood District Coordinators will continue to be housed at the Neighborhood Service Centers.)
- One Neighborhood District Coordinator (NDC) position which was vacant and unfunded during the budget cuts taken mid-year was permanently eliminated. A staff position in Historic Preservation was reduced 25%.
- A staff member from the Office for Economic Development involved in their granting unit will transfer to DON to join the Neighborhood Matching Fund team. This compensates for the eliminated Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Manager position (that had been empty due to retirement).
- The staff member working on the South Park Action Agenda, who has been on loan to the Office of Economic Development (OED) for the past year, will permanently move to OED.
- Two senior management positions will be eliminated - one is the Deputy Director position which was kept vacant as part of our mid-year budget reductions and the other is the Division Director of Planning and Community Building presently held by Veronica Sherman-King. However, I'm pleased to share with you that Veronica has accepted a position with the P-Patch Trust as their first Executive Director. We wish her well.
- In addition, various non-personnel operating costs will be reduced. At this time, no staff furloughs are planned for 2012.



Lastly, even though it was proposed to create a single Community Granting Unit involving the Neighborhood Matching Fund, Department of IT's Technology Matching Fund, Office for Economic Development's Only in Seattle program and Seattle Public Utilities' Waste Reduction and Recycling Program, the council did not approve it. However, all of the departments will continue to work together to make it easier for community members to apply for grants. And the web portal, [www.seattle.gov/grants](http://www.seattle.gov/grants), still serves as your "one-stop" location for all information regarding the city's community granting programs.

These reductions and changes are tough, especially for those personally affected. We will miss the people and programs that have been core to our department. But as you know, the economic climate is still challenging for the future, and there may be additional budget reductions in the coming year. Even with these reductions, the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods team will adjust and continue to do our best on behalf of the community.

Bernie