

NEWS RELEASE

May 26, 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: County Priorities and the Upcoming Budgetary Reduction

Based upon this most-recent economic shortfall by Mason County, the Mason County Human Resources Department would like to propose having an open forum discussion with Directors, Elected Officials, and members of the general public to discuss the proposed budgetary reduction. More specifically, this roundtable discussion will be the opportunity for individuals to present ideas, suggestions, and input about reductions within the County. I hope this informal meeting will help to establish a proposed recommended framework of 'government priorities' for these anticipated June 16th reductions. While this reduction is hopefully the last anticipated reduction for the remainder of the fiscal year, I hope framework will also serve as a basis for providing guidance in preparation for the upcoming 2010 budgetary year. Anyone with ideas or suggestions on budgetary reductions within the County is urged to attend and make his or her voice heard. This open door, roundtable discussion is welcome to all members of the public and will take place on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners' Chambers. I would also propose a similar discussion to occur in the North County/Belfair area next Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at a location to be determined, but which I will announce at next Tuesday's Board of County Commissioner Hearing.

Mason County is committed to providing the best package of services possible despite its limited resources and your input is welcomed. Any and all suggestions and ideas derived from this meeting will be presented to the Mason County Board of Commissioners on or before June 16th in a recommended capacity only. Members of the public are still welcome to express their views and opinions during the 'Open Forum for Citizen Input' during the regular Mason County Board of Commissioner Meetings on Tuesday, June 2nd, 9th, and the 16th as well.

Those persons unable to attend this Tuesday, June 2nd discussion are still welcome to provide suggestions 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