

# King County Councilmember Larry Gossett

District 2

Summer 2007

## From crown to King: a new logo is unveiled



On March 12, 2007, the County Council approved the new logo for King County, an original image of civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The new logo was designed by a Seattle based graphic design team, Tony Gable Design Group.

The unveiling of the logo was a culmination of a 20-year effort to change King County's namesake and then the logo. In 1986, then-County Councilmember Bruce Laing proposed to fellow Councilmember Ron Sims to begin the successful bi-partisan effort to change the county's namesake to Dr. King. In 1998, I introduced legislation to change our logo to reflect our namesake. However, it was not until 2006 that the County Council voted to change the logo.

The transition to the new logo will take place over five years to keep costs to a minimum, sometimes replacing items with the new logo when new supplies are ordered.

I think King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng's reflections at the March 12th Council meeting speak to what this means to all of us: "The life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as embodied in our new logo, speaks to justice, fairness, and independence. It sets a standard for us and the public we serve to live up to."



The King County Council and other elected officials celebrate the adoption of the new logo for the county.

## Are you ready?

All too often, those of us who live in urban areas do not realize that we need to be prepared for a natural disaster. We all remember the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, and more recently, the wind storm last year. This storm resulted in extended electrical outages throughout our region, extensive property damage for some, school and work closures, first responders (police, fire, electrical and utility emergency crews) stretched beyond their limits, and the unfortunate death of our neighbor and friend in Madison Valley.

Like many of you, I pledged to get prepared right after the storm. But as time passes, it is easy to forget the lessons learned and to think that it won't happen to you. I urge you to join me in creating individual emergency plans to protect our homes and family members.

The best way to do this is by 3 Days, 3 Ways. It is said that in the case of an emergency or disaster, we should all have the capability to be self-sufficient for a *minimum* of 3 days. The 3 ways are:



**Make a plan:** Develop an emergency plan for your family that includes a meeting place and an out-of-state contact person.

*Continued on reverse*

## County transitions to vote by mail

As you may have heard, King County voters will be transitioning to an all-mail in ballot beginning in 2008. This means the days of going to your local polling place to vote will be coming to an end. There are a number of reasons for this change:

**Accurate documentation and increased security:** as you recall, there were problems involving the legitimacy of some votes during the 2004 gubernatorial election. Some of these problems involved human error. New tabulation equipment necessary to facilitate the move to an all-mail ballot should eliminate these problems by removing much of the human element.

**Increased efficiency:** Over 60% of King County voters now vote by mail-in absentee ballot. On any given election, nearly 70% of voters vote by mail.

**Cost savings:** The costs associated with a dual system (absentee and poll place voting) are substantial. By moving to an all-mail ballot, King County will save money.

For more information on King County's transition to an all-mail ballot, please visit the website of King County's Department of Records, Elections and Licensing Service: [www.metrokc.gov/elections](http://www.metrokc.gov/elections).

## Town hall meeting planned on Black-on-Black violence

Black-on-Black violence has always been of paramount concern to me, and recently it hit very close to home—literally—during the month of April.

On Easter Sunday, I was informed that an extended family member had been shot multiple times at an after-hours spot earlier that morning. This strong young man is still courageously fighting for his life. On Saturday, April 28th, while my wife and I were out for the evening, a 24 year old African-American man was shot within yards of my home. He later died. It is time for us to act to stop this epidemic of violence.

I will be hosting a town hall meeting to discuss and develop strategies to stop Black-on-Black violence. This important meeting will be held at the Paul Robeson Cultural Arts Center at Rainier Beach High School on Tuesday, June 19th, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

June 19th, also known as Juneteenth, commemorates the implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation, marking the end of slavery. I feel it is fitting to have this important community dialog on this historic date, as too many people remain caught in a form of psychological slavery, marked by self-hatred, hopelessness, and violence.



### Inside:

- ▶ King County's new logo
- ▶ Gains for small businesses
- ▶ Vote-by-mail elections
- ▶ Emergency preparedness
- ▶ Black-on-Black violence

### Selected summer and fall events:

- Columbia City Farmers Market, May 2 - Oct 31
- U-District Farmers Market, May 5 - Dec 29
- Juneteenth Festival and Parade, June 15-17
- Bumbershoot, September 2-3
- Wallingford Wurst Festival, September 14-15

*Details and more events inside*

## Larry Gossett

### King County Councilmember, District 2

King County Courthouse  
 516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
 Seattle, WA 98104-3272  
 E-mail: [larry.gossett@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.gossett@metrokc.gov)  
 Web: [www.metrokc.gov/gossett](http://www.metrokc.gov/gossett)

PRSR STD  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 Seattle, WA  
 Permit No. 1788



King County

## Small businesses benefit from County program

On March 12, 2007, the Council adopted Ordinance 2007-0146, an ordinance I sponsored, creating the King County Contracting Opportunities Program to increase the use of small contractors and suppliers (SCSs) in county contracts. This program replaces a pilot program known as "Boost," which was in effect for goods and services contracts and consulting contracts. With the adoption of the King County Contracting Opportunities Program, the program has been expanded to include construction contracts.

As the result of this ordinance, we hope to increase the amount of awards in the construction field by making previously voluntary rules and requirements mandatory. These changes have the potential to significantly increase contracting opportunities for SCSs who work in construction.

The King County Contracting Opportunities Program also establishes new annual reporting requirements which will allow the Council to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in achieving this goal. The legislation also directs the Executive to develop options to improve the participation of small business for goods and services contracts, which have historically been underutilized when compared to the participation of small businesses in professional consulting contracts

This ordinance is a major step in the right direction, as the Council is continually looking for new and innovative ways to create opportunities for small businesses in King County. For more information on this ordinance, visit the webpage for the County's Office of Business Relations and Economic Development (BRED), [www.metrokc.gov/exec/bred](http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/bred) and click on the link marked "Contracting Opportunities."

## Are you ready? *Continued from front*



**Build a kit:** Create a survival kit that will last for a minimum of 3 days. You may wish to make a few kits: one for home, one for your workplace, and one for the car.



**Get involved:** Communicate with neighbors and friends about your preparations for emergencies. Make a plan to check in with each other, especially to look after the elderly, the disabled, and children.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit [www.3days3ways.org](http://www.3days3ways.org) or contact the King County Office of Emergency Management at (206) 296-3830 or visit their website: [www.metrokc.gov/prepare](http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare).



*Pat Traub and Joan Burlingame [chosen spelling] of the Enumclaw Forested Foothills Recreation Association invited me for a tour of several farms.*

## Selected events

**Columbia City Farmers Market:** Wednesdays, May 2nd through October 31st, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Columbia City Farmers market is located in the parking lot at 48-1 Rainer Avenue South (at South Edmunds).

**University District Farmers Market:** Saturdays, May 5th through December 29th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The University District Farmers Market is located on the "Ave" at the corner of University Way NE and NE 50th Street, next to University Heights Community Center.

**Seattle Central Area Chamber of Commerce Juneteenth Freedom Festival and Parade,** June 15th to 17th: Juneteenth is celebrated across America as the day the Emancipation Proclamation took effect in Texas, the last state to officially end slavery. The festival will be held in Pratt Park, 20th and East Yesler, from 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. all three days. The parade will take place on June 16th at noon and begins at 25th Ave and Alder. For more information, call the Seattle Central Area Chamber of Commerce, (206) 325-2864.

**Bumbershoot,** September 2nd to 3rd: Come celebrate the end of summer at Bumbershoot, Seattle's music and arts festival located at the Seattle Center. Open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day. For more information, visit [www.bumbershoot.com](http://www.bumbershoot.com).

**Great Wallingford Wurst Fest,** September 14th and 15th: Join your fellow District 2 residents at a family-oriented, "Octoberfest"-type, end-of-the-summer celebration with rides, games, craft booths, and a variety of food booths. Located at St. Benedict School, 4811 Wallingford Avenue North. Open Friday from 4 to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is free.