

A MESSAGE FROM THE KING COUNTY ASSESSOR

Scott Noble

I am proud to report that 1994 was another outstanding year. We enter 1995 with a sense of accomplishment and recognition. For the first time in its history the Department of Assessments completed a county-wide revaluation of property using new technology and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP). In addition, the Department was honored at the 60th annual conference of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO): Lynn Gering, Chief Deputy Assessor, was named IAAO Member of the Year — a prestigious honor recognizing talent and commitment to fair assessment administration.

We have had marked success in improving service to the public in 1994. My focus is on three areas to produce these results: standards, resources, and customer service to achieve improved fairness and equity, improved uniformity, and improved balance in the system. Highlights include:

- **Accountability** — Standards of valuation and new technology permitted appraisers, for the first time, to document valuations with reports on each major area of the county. Citizens can now get answers on how their assessment is done, and what market sales were used to determine assessed value.
- **Customer service** — The Department has been recognized for improving customer service and has removed the adversarial atmosphere of the past. My focus is to fix problems as opposed to fixing blame.
- **Information provider** — New technology, including a Geographic Information System, allows the Department to provide better information to the public and to policy makers, assisting informed decision-making on regional issues such as economic development, housing affordability, transportation, and growth management. I intend to remain active in promoting efforts to find solutions to our many pressing regional problems.
- **A professional organization** — The Department of Assessments has added technical and managerial expertise this past year. Two-fold resources: new technology and a positive work environment with training and education opportunities for all staff, allow a talented workforce to produce better results and service. I will continue to emphasize adherence to standards, professional development, and self-improvement.
- **Results** — The Department has dramatically improved over the past two years. Property valuations are more accurate, assessment appeals have been greatly reduced, and we have restored confidence to the taxpayers that concerns will be addressed.
- **Leadership through integrity** — We have made constructive, workable, and necessary changes to vastly improve the Department. We created an organization that is accountable to the public, is dedicated to improved customer service, utilizes state-of-the-art technology in a cost-effective manner, adheres to professional standards and assessments law, and produces more fair and equitable property valuations.

Our success is due to the talented and dedicated team of employees at the King County Department of Assessments. I salute them for their great efforts and commitment to our ultimate goal of providing outstanding service to our fellow citizens. I would like to thank all others for their support and assistance, including the King County Executive Administration and especially the Metropolitan King County Council.

Finally, I would like to thank the citizens of King County for allowing me the challenging and rewarding opportunity to lead the Department of Assessments in its mission of public service.

