
WORKSHOP TRANSCRIPTS

READING THE TRANSCRIPTS

The transcripts found in this report include the discussion from participants. For the workshops and forums they are organized by topic area, for the online survey they are organized by the top priority selected.



DISTRICTS 5 & 7 TRANSCRIPT

King County Budget Workshops

Districts 5-7

Burien, WA

February 22, 2007

Overall Budget Priorities

M: It looks like most of you indicated Law and Justice number one. What were you thinking about when you pushed it? What was motivating your response in that instance?

R: Crime. (One respondent agreed.)

M: So, we're holding crime down.

R: Fire.

Safety.

Police.

M: Fire and police.

R: 9-1-1. (One respondent agreed.)

M: These are the things you think should be top priority?

R: Yes. (Several respondents agreed.)

M: Anybody else?

R: The jails and the court system.

M: The whole court system? Pretty much the whole range. What about under Health and Human Services, our second choice? What was in there?

R: I just thought that there was a real need for basic health and human services, and there's a lot of people that really need human services and health.

I think there's a lot of uninsured people that need those kinds of things.

M: Uninsured people need health protection or coverage.

R: Basic health care.

And the public health office does a lot, so those things should be continued.

Also, I had a combination issue and was hit by somebody under the influence.

The driver in our car died. I lost...I became disabled. I waited on a waiting list to go to DVR for a year and I just got...

M: It would be a combination of these top two.

R: Very much so. I just did them the other way around.

A lot of places will turn you away. They can actually do that.

M: DVR is what?

R: Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Maybe I'm a bit confused by this. If you live in an incorporated area, a lot of these services may be taken care of in your incorporated area. When I'm voting for something, I'm saying this probably is taken care of in my incorporated area, so is my voting kind of abstract and academic rather than real?

M: That's a good question. It's something that may be coming up. I don't have answers to that. One of the reasons they hire me to do this is because I don't know anything about it, so it's great that you're asking all of these questions. We're recording this so that we can see where the levels of confusion are or the things that people aren't sure about. We want to know what those are. We talked earlier about some overlap of services. In the Law and Justice area, the Sheriff is in there, but so is the prosecuting attorney. The prosecuting attorney covers the whole County, but the Sheriff may not if you live in Ballard. They can still use the prosecuting attorney. There's a lot of overlap and fuzzy edges here. That's part of why we're having this conversation, so we can hear what you have to say about it.

R: Before you get off of that subject, I was thinking the younger people that are working and not really making enough money and not really getting benefits, we need to start thinking about them. A lot of people are sick or have disabilities, and they don't have that. When my grandson came to me the other day telling me he had strep throat, he said he couldn't go to the doctor because he didn't have insurance. My heart was filled with pain. At a certain age, they don't get anything.

I would also suggest that if Health and Human Services are going to be provided for adequately, fewer jail services may be needed.

M: Okay. I'm going to ask Faith Trimble to come up and go through some of the budget and address some of the questions that have come up.

Budget Priorities: Law, Safety & Justice

M: Yes?

R: I'm surprised the Sheriff's Department would rank that high because the unincorporated areas are diminishing rapidly, and most of the Sheriff's Department police are rented out to those people who are in incorporated areas. In other words, the cities are taking care of the policing and I can't understand that.

M: Given that we keep saying 21% or so live in incorporated areas. Some smaller cities contract with the Sheriff to provide police services for them. Did ya'll hear that? He was surprised that, given the fact that the unincorporated areas are shrinking or cities are growing and incorporating more areas, they're providing police services. He was surprised the Sheriff's Department scored that high.

R: I didn't vote for Superior and District Courts, but I was amazed when I was on

jury duty recently how slow things went. I thought it was such a waste. Two-hour lunches? Hour breaks every 20 minutes? I've never read so much in my life!

Can we vote one more time, just for fun?

M: No. We have to keep moving.

R: Now we've seen the stacks, and I'm sure everybody has a bit of a different opinion now that we've seen it. (Several respondents agreed.)

M: I'm sorry, but we can't.

R: That's not fair.

M: Yes?

R: I find it rather interesting that Superior and District Courts are at the top, but yet the public defense and prosecuting attorneys were at the bottom.

I would think logically the prosecuting attorneys and public defenders would be linked in with the courts.

Could I finish my comment, please? What strikes me as ironic is that we all know that, with the right amount of money in this country, you can basically buy your defense, but I found it interesting that they were so far separated. I think it all goes back to the fact that a lot of people are putting attorneys in a bad light when, really, it's the whole core of the system.

I wonder if part of that is because this socioeconomic cluster of people is rich enough to buy their own attorneys, so they don't think about public defenders.

M: That's a very good point. Any other comments about this?

R: Just in response to what he was talking about with regard to public defense. Looking at it from the perspective that by allowing them to have more money, it will allow them greater resources and ability. They're so overwhelmed with people needing public defenders that they're totally swamped. They can't give every single bit of their focus to every single person that they need to defend. Maybe by allowing their resources to expand, they can give more attention and give more quality defense to the people who need them.

M: Any other comments on this result of this topic? One of the things that we're finding is that writing a budget about prioritizing. There's not enough money to do everything. We all know that from our homes. There's not enough money to do everything, so you have to choose some things above other things. That's what the County counsel is going to be doing, and that's what we're asking you to help us with right here. It's not easy, a lot of times, to make these choices. It might seem arbitrary, but that's part of the nature of writing a budget. The next topic or segment is Public Health.

Budget Priorities: Public Health

M: Comments here?

R: When I used to work in the restaurants, and I think it's still true now, they would always give us a week's notice before they were coming. That gave us time to bring everyone in on overtime and clean everything up.

Stop in before you set up the announcement.

M: Any other comments here?

R: Yes. I'm just so surprised about HIV/AIDS, how slow people think about this disease. It's a mad, crazy disease. We have to get some more education about this.

We can't hear you back here.

M: That raises a good point. When you're thinking about this, are you thinking about the phenomenon of AIDS, flu, drug abuse, and/or are you thinking about what's the responsibility about County government? There may be other people that you think should have...AIDS is a terrible thing, but should someone other than County government be dealing with it? I'm interested to know if that's entering your thinking or not.

R: I had this same emotional reaction that she did; however, that's why we have public health clinics, which I have to use. That's kind of what I was thinking. They do do education. We don't have enough AIDS education.

Can you speak up, please? Stand please?

Can you hear me now?

It's not that we don't value HIV or AIDS prevention, it's just what do we value the most? I guess health clinics serve the most people and need the most money, so that's why it's a priority. Also, immunizations. That's something that affects everyone. Everybody needs to be immunized. It's not that we don't value the other things or don't think that money should go to them, it's just that if we only have a dollar, let's put it toward this.

M: Good point.

R: My criteria for deciding is what is going to give the best benefit for the most people. In that case, it's not that I don't want to support AIDS but, on the other hand, if you support AIDS, you're ignoring all of the people who have all of these other problems. I think the health clinic would be the best use for that particular slice of money. And substance abuse centers. (Two respondents agreed.) You have to make choices.

I think when you can stop drug abuse, you can start controlling AIDS. (One respondent agreed.)

I'm kind of surprised about the restaurant inspections. In my lifetime, I've

probably only been sick once or twice from food poisoning, yet I've had the flu every five years for my entire life. I'm kind of surprised that people think that's so important.

Would you want to go to restaurants if you know there aren't any inspections? That's the other side of the coin.

Like was said, most restaurants know ahead of time when they're coming, so are they really spending the money wisely?

M: Any other discussion or comments about these?

R: There's not a kid on the face of this planet that hasn't watched television, hasn't seen that drugs are going to do this to you, and are most likely going to either end up dead or in very bad shape. That alone should be a deterrent.

They get a mixed message because they know alcohol is legal and cigarettes are legal.

Thank you.

Those aren't classified as drugs, though.

Alcohol and cigarettes aren't classified as drugs. Aspirin is. Where do you draw the line?

Right here!

Drug and substance abuse is also overlapping because, in the previous thing we selected, you had the drug courts in there. The drug abuse treatment is a big part of that, and the drug courts are working.

M: There's the enforcement side, the judicial side, and the treatment side. They do coordinate.

R: I'm surprised pandemic flu is so high. I wonder if that's a media byproduct because there's been a lot of attention given to it, yet no one sitting in this room has ever suffered from pandemic flu at all.

Not yet. That's a good way to wipe us out, though, if that's what you want to do.

There were two grade school kids here that just died from the flu.

We can't here back here.

M: Let's make sure everybody speaks up so that everyone can hear. Are there any other comments?

Budget Priorities: Community & Human Services

M: Comments?

R: I'm surprised at what's happening with the veteran's programs. They're coming back pretty well mentally and physically busted, but it might also be that people realize the State has the program and the Feds have a program.

Yes, Federal has a program

M: For veterans? Yes, very much so. Yes?

R: I think people aren't clearly understanding how to vote.

If we were thinking about the third most important in the other law category with jails and community services, if we could take some of that jail money and take it out of the quality of their lifestyle and put it into out low-income housing and our youth, because I see a lot of the people in our jails with a quality of life that is higher than...I mean, they have medical insurance. They're eating three squares a day. They're not having to deal with property taxes and gas prices. Just a comment.

And education.

M: One at a time please. Yes?

R: Is there actually a ten-year program, or did you just throw that in there?

M: The County has adopted a ten-year program.

R: Starting what year?

M: Five years from now it will start.

General Fund Priorities

M: Although we had some discussion before, are there any comments on this? Yes?

R: I know there is an overlap between the public health and disease prevention, but it seems like prevention of things like tuberculosis and influenza and all of those normal immunization things should be a priority. We certainly don't want those things not to be prevented

We need to get the County to gives free flu shots.

That's where you get them.

M: Any others? Yes?

R: Putting the Elections Department on this slide really threw me off because we hadn't talked about it at all. It was kind of like throwing this weird money wrench into what I'd already prioritized in my head.

M: That's a good point. There was, way back there in one of those slides, Others? Yes?

R: I just had a really difficult time with this slide. My suggestion is that sometimes maybe you post some of these buckets that you have, because it's hard to know. If this a general fund that of things that weren't covered in other buckets?

M: No. The last there or four slides before this, we were looking at categories. This mixes those and says, "Of these, which ones." Again, it's not like these are going to get not funded. What we're talking about is priority. If we have

to give a dollar more to one, which one would you favor? That's really what we're doing here. In some sense, it's separated from the actual dollar, but that doesn't sound right. What we're really talking about is the emphasis in the budget. It's not like no money is going to go into the fund.

R: But the general fund money is the only thing the counsel has discretion on spending. Everything else is all dedicated. This is the only thing they can sit down and literally pick, choose and chop up. Everything else is pre-spent.

M: **Okay. I want to switch gears.**

Budget Priorities: Transit Use (Riders)

M: **What's your take on this?**

R: Not being a bus rider, I don't want to comment about the safety. Is it not safe? Is it not safe to ride the bus?

M: **Is Safety a...We've got safe and clean on there. Folks who chose this one, were you thinking more of safety or of cleanliness?**

R: Safety (2 agree)

Cleanliness

Safety

Safety

The bus being safe, or how they drive?

M: **So, her question is, safe to ride or is it safe to be on the bus?**

R: Safe to ride, as in getting in an accident?

That's what I want to know.

Oh no, I don't think anyone is worried about that. I think there worried about the gang members in back. (1 Agrees)

No, I think its safety in terms of personal space.

R: So, its personal safety.

M: **So, its personal safety while you're on the bus from other riders.**

R: That is an issue.

Big.

How bout safety from the cell phone driver.

M: **Okay, good point.**

Budget Priorities: Transit Use (Non-Riders)

M: **This kind of surprises me.**

R: Why?

M: **The routes and the reliability are less important than the cleanliness and**

safety of the bus?

R: That's from people who choose to drive their car. They're in the car by themselves with their friends or family, and they don't have to deal with these kids. Regardless of whether they're in a gang or not, they all seem to think they can act out. They get loud. Years ago when I was riding the bus, I couldn't go two days without having to deal with them.

My son got off of a bus and was stabbed. It's the same thing.

My girlfriend's kid was stabbed in the Burien park-and-ride just getting off the bus.

My daughter takes the bus and I worry about her all the time.

Why didn't safety rank up there?

M: We're stimulating conversation here, but we need to keep down the noise.

R: Safe and clean buses is a combination that is really not appropriate. Safer buses are not the same thing as cleaner buses. I like those buses. I ride them. They're clean. They're very clean and very well organized. They're very profitable and they're very professional. Safety needs to be broken out from that.

M: That's a good point.

R: I agree also with greater bus reliability and frequency. There's plenty of routes that have a good amount of frequency, but it's the bus reliability. Those shouldn't be together either. (Two respondents agreed.)

M: Good point.

Budget Priorities: Roads

R: Well those top three, if you do one you kind of automatically get the other ones. It's almost like one category.

Budget Priorities: NR & Environment

M: Comments?

R: Storm water services or help for cleaning the storm drains so that there isn't flooding.

That confused me – storm water and flood control. They're both related to storms.

Is that farmland preservation also known as the taking provision? For example, if you have a six-acre piece of property, you're only allowed to have one-third of it for your own personal use? Two-thirds has to go to preservation?

M: Some might interpret it that way, yes. Part of growth management, within that format, is preservation.

R: I read flood control to mean getting the levees fixed, and storm water was getting rid of the water that comes down from normal rainfall.

My understanding of farmland preservation is that it is the zoning that keeps some

of the farmlands protected from being developed and turned into concrete. (One respondent agreed.)

M: So there's some overlap between farmland preservation and (*inaudible* – coughing).

R: If they called it protection of the agricultural areas, maybe that would be clearer. It isn't the same as habitat.

M: Right.

R: You guys are going to have all of the bugs worked out in this by the time the fourth group comes in.

M: Well, yes. We are going to combine all of these and roll them up. Some of these questions may change based on what you're comments are and what we've learned tonight. Most of them will probably stay pretty much the same throughout these five meetings and we'll roll them up into one.

R: You'll have five meetings and you'll gather this data, and you're going to put it on the web site for all of us to see?

M: Yes. We'll have a public forum to wrap it all up in March. What we're doing now is taking the top two from each of those choices that we made, and we're going to put them all on one chart and prioritize that list. It's getting harder. We're getting near the end. We're almost there.

Miscellaneous Comment

R: Sidewalks should be with buses. Its hard to get to the bus if you don't have a good sidewalk sometimes.

Wasn't the sidewalk for unincorporated?

Open Budget Suggestions

M: What would be some ideas with that you'd do with that? We'll put Animal Control in there.

R: Actually, now they're calling themselves Animal Services, and they're really working hard to do animal services.

That includes the shelters, too, which is a big deal.

M: So, Animal Services. What else?

R: Sidewalks.

Youth activities. (Several respondents agreed.)

M: This can be some of the programs we've already talked about, or it can be something new. It doesn't have to be a program. We found \$10 million. What should we do with it?

R: Drug improvement.

M: Drug improvement?

R: That's not exactly what I'm asking! I meant drug treatment.

No, no, no. Drug awareness, not drug treatment. Fight the problem before it's a problem.

Raise the survey stipend to \$100.00!

M: We have drug education and drug treatment. We can keep those separate. Yes?

R: Libraries.

Libraries are not a King County expense.

How about education?

That's not, either.

The State gives money for that.

I'm going to throw low-income housing in there. The mean income in King County for a family of three is around \$79,000.00, so it's so easy to be low-income in this County.

I have a real problem with that.

Domestic violence services.

All voting issues. I don't want them to say we can only vote on these things. I'm not sure how to say it.

You have to be either Republican or Democratic.

There needs to be more efficient or effective voting.

I think he's concerned about having to state whether you're going to vote Republican or Democratic.

M: Is that it?

R: No, but that's okay.

M: Yes?

R: I'd like to see something like affordable legal services for mid- to low-income people.

Senior and elderly care. (One respondent agreed.)

Job placement.

Can this be something that's not on there at all? Anything? Convictions for mothers that deliver drug addicted babies.

M: So here's our list: animal services, sidewalks, youth activities, drug treatment and drug education, low-income housing, domestic violence services, affordable legal services, senior care, and job placement. So, if \$10

million came into the County budget, these would be our suggestions. Let's build a chart and let's prioritize those.

R: Can we put medical for uninsured children?

We discussed that already.

Can we combine drug treatment and drug education into one?

I think we could. (One respondent agreed.)

M: Yes, we can.

R: That leaves one open.

M: We're also running out of time. That leaves one more. We're putting drug treatment and drug education together, so now we have one more spot.

R: Medical for uninsured children?

What was yours?

Conviction for mothers who bring drug addicted babies into our world.

How about foster care? Can we throw that under foster care? Would that address your concern if we put more money toward the foster care process?

We want to stop foster care. We want to do prevention.

How many people are aware of the pediatric interim care center that they have in Camden (sp?)? That's what they do. That's a prototype. It's the first one in the United States. I don't know if they get any County money or not, but that would be a good one.

We want our children to not go there.

It's for drug addicted babies.

My granddaughter went to PIC. We don't want PIC. We want intervention.

What are we supposed to be voting on? I didn't get to vote.

M: No pressure, but hurry!

DISTRICTS 1 & 4 TRANSCRIPT

King County Budget Workshops

Districts 1 & 4

Northgate, WA

February 24, 2007

Budget Priorities: Law, Safety & Justice

M: You voted for this or indicated this. Does this surprise you? Does this look right? What were you thinking about on this chart?

R: Mental health.

I was thinking my priority is emergency assistance. We're in an earthquake area and we saw what a lack of emergency assistance can do in New Orleans. We don't want that here.

I agree. I think the biggest priority should be basic survival first, then the rest comes.

M: The folks who were pushing emergency preparedness as a top priority are thinking about the fact that you're sitting on an earthquake zone, you've seen Katrina, so it raises the awareness of that whole thing. Okay. The courts were top. Any thoughts there? Yes?

R: The court system is another huge system that needs to function well because it services everybody, even if you aren't actually appearing in the court system. It keeps the community functioning on a level that is based on community values. It needs to work.

M: Did you hear that?

R: Not very well.

M: We'll ask you to speak up. She said the court system needs to function well. It serves everybody, whether you're actually in it or not. Yes?

R: I picked the Sheriff's Department mostly because I think criminal justice is continuing to shift and change to prevention and provides an enormous amount of service to our communities. I think it is changing rapidly under Sheriff Sue Rohr.

I found it hard with the category of Law, Safety and Justice to think of that since what we know now, there's all these other things that need to be in that. I just didn't see the categories that I wanted, and maybe it was prevention based.

M: What other categories did you want that aren't there?

R: Like early childhood services and things that actually preclude a lot of these things. It was hard for me to look at this budget because of that.

M: Trying to keep people out of the criminal justice system? Early prevention kinds of things?

R: Yes.

M: Yes?

R: I placed the court system as my top priority because the budget for the courts, even the State budget, county budget, is minute. It is my understanding that Superior Court judges, for example, get \$100.00 a year, maybe that's wrong, to buy periodicals or whatever, and the courts are really the check or the arbiter on the executive and the legislative, and I think they are radically under funded.

I think the way the court system was explained on the previous screen, a lot of the services under there, we hope that in the court system and under the Sheriff's Department you've got people on the street or dealing with the public to prevent something more serious; whereas, my assumption was with the jails, they're already in. Hopefully they won't be there again. As a schoolteacher, having the sheriffs or SEATAC police come to talk with the kids that's a chance to prevent serious trouble. If we make an investment there, we're trying to prevent it from being more serious.

M: Any other comments here? So this is what makes this kind of a session so valuable. Doing it as a phone survey, we wouldn't hear the reasons why people are giving they answers they're giving. That's why we come out and have these kinds of sessions. Here's the Public Health summary, the programs inside this Public Health category. It's obviously the second biggest one in the County budget. We have public health clinics, drug and substance abuse treatment, HIV/AIDS prevention programs, immunization programs, pandemic flu...

Budget Priorities: Public Health

M: What are some of the things that you were thinking as you were pressing numbers on this one?

R: Under health clinics, I was thinking about prevention and keeping people out of the ER.

I was thinking that the drug and substance abuse programs impact other areas of the budget so hugely that that was really important. In future years, if you could

get a good handle on that, it would give more money to public health.

I was thinking of the homelessness and the top priorities around homelessness. It is a huge issue, as we all know.

Public health encompasses most of everything that is there.

I was thinking about drug and substance abuse. Besides the social value of helping people improve their lives, it seems to me the most cost effective way of keeping people out of the criminal justice system.

I was thinking that if you get people immunized, there's less likelihood of having flu pandemic. Flu vaccines, also.

M: A lot of the comments are on the preventative side of the equation.

R: I wonder how representative our group really is. I see only one person of color here.

There's a few more.

M: You're pretty represented. When we called people, that was one of the questions we asked. We want to make these count. We asked 62 people to come, and we have 54 here. Yes?

R: I really agree with his opinion when it comes to public health. I work directly with homeless people daily. I see the same people in and out of the substance abuse programs. They want to get in out of the rain for a little while. Three days after I see them get out, they're back on the drugs. There are people who aren't getting the help they need so, yes, we'd like to see more public health clinics. At the same time, I talk to people out there and ask them why they don't go to a clinic. They don't look well. They say, "I won't go into those places."

It's a hard problem when they won't use the services.

Exactly.

Does that say more about the people or about the places?

I think they're not mutually exclusive. I think it says something about both, to be perfectly honest. There are people who don't want to follow any rules whatsoever. Therefore, they're not going to get into a program. Then there are people who may use a program, but they don't like what's going on in the place.

M: Yes?

R: I find it interesting that I'm looking around and seeing the median age here. I think it is rather interesting that there are not youthful registered voters who are sitting here and making decisions. Why aren't there more of them here? That's bothersome to me.

M: There are a lot of different ways to gather this information. Like I said, when we call, we ask people their age range. If you'll remember when we called, we asked you a lot of questions: gender, age, income, ethnicity, and a couple of other things. We were actually filling quotas, if you will, to get a representative group in the room. Our hope is that there isn't any particular group over-represented. This is actually pretty representative of this area. We're not trying to do any specific representation. Some populations may be under-represented because they're not registered to vote, but 72% of the people over 18 are registered to vote. Let's move to another slice of the pie.

Budget Priorities: Community & Human Services

R: Real estate prices are really high. I think there's something when we can't buy houses any more. For somebody who is retired and trying to live on a fixed income, the money for this stuff comes from some place, and we're to the point where we're going to have to leave King County. We can't afford a home that we paid for. We can't afford the taxes on our home anymore. To fund this low-income housing, you might be taking away from people who built the community and are leaving their home, children and grandchildren because they can't afford to live in a home that they own. That's what's going to happen.

I have four adult children. Out of the four of them, three have had to stay at home for a lengthy period of time because they couldn't afford to strike out on their own because of housing prices.

M: Yes?

R: I voted for youth and family services because that's our future. Whatever can be done in the way of prevention and to get people started off on the right foot seems like the way to go.

I'm surprised there's veteran's programs in here at all. Is that a net result of the Fed not taking care of the veterans?

M: To an extent, probably. Any other comments here? Yes?

R: I think that, given the fact that there are a growing number of philanthropic groups out there working on this, I think there can be a great synergy going on to provide housing. I hope that as the County looks at these things, they continue to outreach and do private/public partnerships to broker the success of all of these programs that are available.

M: That's a good point. It's not all on the County government or any one government to solve all of these problems.

R: Right.

M: Yes?

R: I voted for the work/training programs because I think that the more people we can get off of the public welfare roles and into productive work, the better it is for everybody.

I voted for veteran's programs because regardless of whether it is funded by the Federal government or not, we have a commitment that we need to keep.

I voted for the ten-year plan to end homelessness because all of the various categories up there have various inferences toward homelessness: the low-income, the seniors, and people who come from broken homes due to domestic violence and all of that. I would say the ten-year plan (*inaudible*) would be paramount because it would have inferences for all of these categories.

Budget Priorities: Transit (Riders)

R: Let's talk about these. This is something that is near and dear to my heart because I've spent a lot of time trying to convey to Metro what's wrong with the bus system. I ride the bus during the summer time about one-third of the time. I work at the university. When school starts, the buses fill up. They are completely unreliable. There is no room on the bus. Buses pass by people standing on the street corner. That becomes an unusable bus system. Metro says they don't have money to add more buses. What happens is people stop riding and the problem goes away. It's the reliability. I can work around the schedule but, when I go to the bus stop and the bus isn't there or the bus passes me by because it's full, I can't deal with that.

The fundamental question is speed. Other than Magnolia or in the school district, I drive. You're talking about 20 minutes. If I take the bus, I have to plan for an hour. People don't have that kind of time to piddle away.

That brings up a really good point. Metro has got to stop focusing on fare loss and focus on moving people, using all the doors, stop the bus for the shortest amount of time, let people get on and let people get off, then move. Keep all the traffic moving and worry about the money some other way.

When I was responding, I have two teenagers that ride Metro. I kept finding myself wanting to vote for them because they have to deal with this transit center right here, and it's real dangerous for kids. This one and the one at 85th. I'm

always telling my kids not to go to the transit center at Northgate, and do not to the one at 85th, because it's too unsafe. As a rider myself, infrequent rider, I just want to give voice to the teenagers that are using the Metro.

M: Obviously we could do a whole session on this. I want to make sure we cover all the ground and get you out of here on time.

Budget Priorities: Transit (Non-Riders)

M: Reliability means what?

R: It shows up.

They show up. (Several respondents agreed.)

Sometimes the drivers get sick and they don't have a replacement driver available. That happens more often than the buses breaking down.

I'd say punctuality.

The ability to get to where you need to be on time.

For the last eight years, I rode the Metro. If you have problems, there's nobody to help you. You're on your own. I spent eight hours stuck in Stone Valley (sp). I just sat there on a cold bus with ten passengers. I've got nothing good to say about the Metro.

M: Okay. Excellent.

Budget Priorities: Natural Resources & Environment

M: Yes?

R: I voted or pushed the button for getting into habitat conservation. Then you've got flood control. I also was pretty big on code enforcement. Seems to me that they change the zoning very easily. If you have a big corporation coming in, or somebody wants to do something with a developer...The people maybe don't realize it. A tree about as big as you can get your arms around sucks up about 250 gallons of water a day. Thirty years ago, we didn't get these floods that we're getting all up and down here. Now we do because they took all the trees out. When I was a younger man, I used to get on my motorcycle and go out onto Old Redman Highway. That was all farmland. When you look up there today, it's all houses without trees. I'd really have to get more defined on what flood control is. It all intermingles.

M: It takes 250 gallons of water?

R: Yes, a day.

M: A day.

R: Storm water. There's probably not anything that's more important to the health of Puget Sound because of what this nice man talked about in terms of, as we are a populated area, we have to deal with storm water to insure water quality.

Doesn't habitat conservation take care of a lot of that?

M: These are very closely related.

R: I think a lot of this just gets back to water quality overall. They all go together. Habitat conservation is important to farms, habitat restoration and all of that.

M: Okay. Yes?

R: I think it was just two weeks ago that Bill Dietrich did a spread in the Sunday edition about Skagit Valley. I know that's not us, but I think we all read it differently after having gone through Katrina. The notion of spending all this money to put dykes in, so that the developers can go in to the low lands and build. All that stuff is bound to be flooded. It just takes a big enough storm. I think this flood control thing – we're trying to learn a whole lot more about it after Katrina.

I was going to say about salmon habitat; all of this ties in together. You've got building codes, farmland, habitat conservation, etc.

M: The theme there is that they're all closely woven together.

R: That's what I was going to say. I kind of expect the County government to start stepping up and looking at things holistically, and explain to people how all of these things fit together so that there's a better understanding of how to prioritize these things, and be a leader on these issues like transportation and environment.

M: I'm going to ask you to take some of the things from the previous list and make us a new list. Are there other comments on that last chart before I take it off the screen?

R: I was going to say that except for the farmland conservation, it all seems to be quite interrelated and it was really hard to choose among them. (One respondent agreed.)

My comment is that sometimes I'm not voting like everyone else does. I think it's because of the chicken and egg question. Everything is cyclical and cause and effect. Sometimes I'm coming in at a different point than others who are voting.

It's not that I'm (inaudible) my priorities.

M: That's good. That's why we want to hear from a cross section of people, because of all of the different perspectives that people bring into it. You all think differently, approach it differently, frame it differently, and it all comes together under public opinion.

R: I'm just curious. What percentage of King County is unincorporated, and where is it?

M: About 21%, I think. We had a map at one point. Is that it?

R: Yes. I'll hang it up now.

M: It's around that. One of the things that's happening is that cities are annexing areas. Areas that used to be unincorporated are now inside of cities, or new cities have sprung up like the city of Sea Tac. A few years ago, that wasn't a city. That changes things. Part of the issue for the Sheriff who is charged with law enforcement of unincorporated areas, is that one area might be down here and one up here. It's not a contiguous, geographical area.

R: I'm thinking about traffic, too. Without getting into a whole discussion, where does the County, City and Federal overlap when I'm trying to get from here to downtown Seattle on the roads?

R: On the things we were looking at with conservation and storm water, I didn't see ground water. I think with the wetlands and the creek systems, everybody keeps ignoring the ground water issues and they are the creeks.

General Fund Priorities

R: I just want to answer that gentleman's question about what we pull from the general fund and what we prioritize in the general fund. We're comparing apples to apples for your priorities so we can have one general fund. That's why we chose this.

Thank you.

M: Yes?

R: Regarding emergency preparedness after watching television following what happened on the gulf coast, I used to fish down there. I think they were pretty much on their own for at least three days on a minimum. When you have a disaster like that, it's good to have a basis. But you better be real.

Open Budget Discussion

M: There's some money here, and it's not allocated to any of these other areas. What should we do with it, and the floor is open. If we had \$10 million in the County budget, what should we do with that money?

R: I don't think a decent society should have so many homeless people, and I'd like to see that addressed. We need to do something.

M: Okay. We'll put in homeless programs.

R: Quality transportation. (One respondent agreed.)

Community policing.

Education for the elderly. Since people are living to be 90, I'd like to see more of them going to college at an older age. Most of the free financial age is given to the younger ones.

Employment programs or initiatives.

I was in Corvallis recently, and I was stunned by how they have community centers for kids with computer labs for adults, and they have programs day and night, all day long for all generations, near the schools and libraries. They locate things so differently than here.

I don't know how to make this short, but something like sustainable planning that encompasses community planning and environmental planning, long-range.

I think developing some other economic development models that don't lead to people not being able to afford to live here.

M: Would sustainable economic development be an okay label?

R: I think it would.

M: We'll elaborate on these again in a little bit. Another one?

R: Low-income housing.

I was going to say public health programs.

M: We have one more slot.

R: How about environmental, like we were talking about, conservation.

M: Okay. Let's add that to conservation programs. So it doesn't have to be a new program. What we've got, then, is: programs for homeless, more public transportation, community policing, education for the elderly which included maybe co-locating some facilities, employment programs, sustainable planning that incorporates...comprehensive planning, I guess. I don't know how to say that. Economic development...

R: Just a different model than the one that just develops everything into an unaffordable place.

M: Low-income housing, public health and conservation. That's our list. Now, what to choose? We'll do that, but not yet. Which ones would you say would have your top priority? Okay, now second. We'll just do two.

END OF REPORT

DISTRICTS 3 & 6 TRANSCRIPT

King County Budget Workshops
Districts 3-6
Redmond, WA
February 28, 2007

Budget Priorities – Program Areas

M: Does this surprise anyone? We interpret this to say that the group in Redmond said Law, Safety and Justice was their top priority, followed by Transportation and Health and Human Services. Yes?

R: If you said that you don't do bus transportation and you don't maintain the roads, and then what is transportation?

M: We'll have a whole section on that.

R: I'm surprised to see parks down that low.

I'm surprised that Health and Human Services is below transportation.

M: Is anybody surprised that Law and Justice is at the top?

R: Yes. (Several respondents agreed.)

Isn't that the way you had it on your sheet when you were asking the questions? The order that they came up?

M: Interesting question. The top one was law, then health, then transportation, then parks, then planning, and then (*inaudible*). That's a good point. Maybe we'll mix it up next time. One of the reasons they hire people like me to do this is, our job is to hear from you what you think and what you know and what your opinions are. We don't know the answers to these questions. You're going to have questions and I'm not going to be able to answer them. What's important for us is to know what your questions are, so that can be fed into the process. I'm not going to be able to answer questions. I wanted to put that out front.

Budget Priorities – Law, Safety & Justice

M: Comments on this chart?

R: You had a whole list there. Does that refer to programs or the court dealing with issues such as drugs?

M: They have programs and the list was mental health, criminal and civil courts,

family law, drug and therapeutic...

R: So you're talking about court dealing with these programs?

M: The court system, yes, deals with those programs.

R: I voted for emergency preparedness and management as my number one priority because I think the county is who needs to have that view, that perspective, of emergency preparedness for the area. It's not going to do any good for Issaquah to have one and Bellevue to have one and Redmond to have one. The big lump of land and people need to have a concerted plan. I just wanted to make sure they knew about that.

M: Good point. What we're looking at now, and one of the reasons we like to do it this way, is so you can help us interpret the chart and explain what's behind these numbers. We have these numbers but we're not entirely certain all the time what people were thinking when they pushed that specific button during the random phone surveys. Yes?

R: It is interesting that the second highest one is in support of the Superior and District Courts. Number one is the Sheriff's Department. We want to catch them and put them in the courts, but we're not paying the attorneys to either prosecute or defend them.

You're also not providing any place for them. You're going to catch them and let them loose.

There's more money being spent on the jails than on the attorneys who are supposed to get them either into a place in the system or out of the system. It's upside down in a way.

I think was a series in The Seattle Times this year about what money there was allotted to public defenders was being mismanaged, but essentially there is darn little. As long as you can hire your own attorney, that's nothing that fazes you. Getting justice for people seems like it should have more than a pittance.

I look at a budget as a tactical tool, as well, in that long-term certainly we need to spend on jails. These numbers would all fluctuate. Right now, emergency preparedness, I don't think any of us thought all that much about it before 9/11. It's a recent thing in our consciousness, and we need to spend a lot of money on that right now. I think with the Sheriff's Departments and the courts, the order that people want – that overall accountability for order in our society. It could be that two years from now we would all vote for jails because we're hearing that our jails are overflowing. I bet that would be high on the list at that point.

M: You're right in that budget's are where policy and priorities – where the

rubber really meets the road. We want to have this policy and have that policy. The budget is where that happens. Yes?

R: What if the government commits public resources to enact an effective policy that people want?

M: It's not easy to do. That's why we're here. Yes?

R: Just to answer the question on why prosecuting attorneys are so much lower than Sheriff's Departments and courts, since I voted that way, my thinking is that a large part of the court is civil. You can't have justice unless you can have a prompt court date. There's no prosecuting attorney involved in a civil case.

M: Did everyone year that?

R: Yes. (Several respondents agreed.)

I'm concerned because it is hard to look at this and not see trends. We're read that Riker, during his tenure at the Sheriff's office, had continual raises in the Sheriff's monies. It's hard to know what the trends are without looking at this. It's more of a touchy feely kind of thing than it is based upon real fact. We don't know the trends that are going on, such as the increase in Superior and District Court. Has that been increasing? Has the load for prosecuting attorneys been increasing? Standing back here and looking, that's a nice feel good type thing, but I don't know what the trend is.

M: Good point. Clearly, as we said earlier, the budgeting devils are always in the details. The more you delve into it, you're making changes and getting more information. By and large, most of us don't have that kind of detail. There is always that feeling that you really want to know what's inside. Yes?

R: My feeling and hope, this is all hopeful, is that the Sheriff's Department, if well funded, would be a crime prevention rather than a...

Budget Priorities – Public Health

M: What were you thinking as you indicate priorities for this portion. Yes?

R: Every time I go through that list, I wonder how much of this is work that King County should be doing versus how much ought to be State priority. How many times are we repeating programs or parceling things out? I picked my priorities, but that was the underlying annoyance.

M: That's a good point. You might feel that HIV/AIDS is the most important thing going on but someone other than the county should be doing it, so you might rate that a little lower. That's a good point.

R: My thinking was that the public health clinic is kind of the gatekeeper to services in most of these areas. They are the first place people go that don't have other alternatives that then will be steered to intervention and other areas. They provide immunizations. They provide the first gateway into drug and substance abuse treatment. They are the first notifiers of an epidemiological event. They are the first identifiers of a potential for a pandemic. I think public health clinics are the gatekeeper for many of these services.

M: So they're in the right position here?

R: In my opinion, yes.

M: Other comments? Yes?

R: Immunization programs, at least in my work as a medical assistant, are run pretty much by the State. The State does all of our supplying and tracking, so I think it is really high on the priority list. I'm a little confused on why it is on the King County one because it is handled by the State. However, immunization programs are important because immunizations can prevent epidemiological events, prevent flu pandemics, and prevent exposure to things in restaurants that might not be seen in an inspection like hepatitis B and C exposure. Immunizations would prevent a lot of those problems.

M: The priority goes to the program line that can prevent or get ahead of some of these other problems. It's a similar thought. Yes?

R: I think it's all in a real good order. I don't work for the public health clinics at all, but I do know that we had to put my own daughter into a drug substance abuse treatment program that was very expensive. We tried going through a public health clinic. If you have medical insurance, forget it. They just turn you away.

M: Okay. Let's move to another significant slice of that general fund.

Budget Priorities - Community & Human Services

M: Youth and Family Services are definitely the top priority here. Any comments?

R: I think the Veterans Program is kind of low. Yes, the Federal government supposedly takes care of it, but they aren't doing the job. (One respondent agreed.)

I see low-income housing and a ten-year plan to end homelessness. Are they linked in any way?

M: I don't know that. Good question.

R: It would make sense.

The problem with low-income housing is that there are enough funds for them and they turn into slums.

I see your ten-year plan to end homelessness, yet I see that King County is aiding and abetting the tent-city four which in my opinion just helps homelessness progress and continue.

Why do we have women's programs but not men's programs listed? You actually have more men in here tonight than women.

I think it's because women are more helpless and have children.

I think in terms of priorities, we see here the most general programs first, not those that are to specific populations.

M: That's a good point. It looks like it is more general and the more specific it gets, the fewer votes it has.

R: Can I ask another question about that?

M: Yes.

R: By any chance, do you know the status of the most expensive ones that are now funded? Do you know what the funding is now for those and which ones are most heavily funded?

M: No, I don't. I'm sure it's on the web site for the County. We don't have those figures.

R: I'm curious. Maybe somebody that voted for this can enlighten me a little bit. I'm wondering why people think the County should be involved in work training. Why should that be a thing the County is involved in, as opposed to a State program or a Federal program?

M: Does anyone know?

R: I'll try to defend that a little bit. On the grounds that more local work training programs are probably better because there is more knowledge of what kind of jobs are needed locally so that you're training for the right things. That would be my defense.
Okay.

M: Yes?

R: If the United States government were in charge of that, people wouldn't get trained for work. The more you break it down and the smaller group of people you're dealing with, the easier the job training will be.

Budget Priorities – Transit (Non-Riders)

M: Comments?

R: I have to go on the record that I agree with the gentleman over here. My wife and I both have relatively long commutes. We'd love to take the bus. It's some sort of earth friendly and pocketbook friendly choice. You can't get there from here. I'm not going to spend two hours trying to get to the office.

I tried to make it work for a while, but I was wasting my time sitting in Seattle waiting for the next connection.

I don't think the county or the local municipalities have really been very creative in their thoughts about mass transit. Everything seems to focus on buses. Disneyland can move monorails around and move thousands and thousands of people around a large area. Why we can't be a little more creative than Mickey Mouse is beyond me.

I want to talk about mass transit. Why in the devil is King County getting rid of the only rail line that goes to the east side? (Applause.)

We need more bike lanes.

This is kind of for your comment about no light rail, and your comment earlier about no north-south route. I used to live in Preston and commuted into Seattle. I had two little kids. I looked at the bus and knew I could be on the bus, stuff in traffic like everyone else, or I can be in my car and have some control if I needed to run home. There wasn't any kind of light rail east-west. We're just getting it now for the north-south. You're going to be in traffic with everybody else, except you're going to be on a bus as opposed to being in your own car, listening to your own music. It's really probably a very selfish perspective, but I would have some control in my life and it doesn't take me two and one-half hours to get to work.

If you have small kids or school-aged kids, you have to be responsible. When the school nurse calls and says Johnny is sick, you can't make excuses.

Yes. I can't tell them I have to take the bus to get there and it will be a couple of hours. Even so, if we had a good light rail system like San Francisco's BART, I would be in the park and ride in 15 minutes.

You can't blame the county for some of this. The voters had a chance with the Forward Thrust monies back several decades ago. At the time they voted in the King Dome, which is now been exploded a rapid transit rail system for which the Federal government would have paid 90%, and the voters voted it down. The money for that system went to Atlanta. We have to take some personal responsibility.

I think that has a lot to do with what a park and ride is and maybe should be. If a park and ride turned out to have little community services, like a Starbucks, an ATM, a dry cleaners, an A & P minimart or a 7-11, these are places where people could get off the bus, run their errands, then get in their cars and go straight home rather than making two or three extra trips to different locations before they got home. I think the definition of park and ride needs to be looked at.

I worked in downtown Seattle for 21 years. I live in Kirkland. Bus service between Kirkland and downtown Seattle is pretty good. I rode the bus downtown for 21 years. Most of the people that I worked with downtown that did not ride the bus did so because they did not like waiting for the bus after work to go home. You'd stand there on the corner. If you missed the bus at 5:30, it was 6:15 for the next one. You're standing around for 45 minutes waiting for a bus, and you see bus after bus after bus after bus going to the east side but not going where you want to go. They go right by it, but they won't stop. My contention has always been that we misuse our park and ride lots. We have this idea that we have to have direct routes from downtown Seattle to everywhere in the county. I've always thought that you could take the South Kirkland park and ride and the Houghton park and ride, and you could have a bus going every 15 minutes from downtown Seattle to those two park and rides. If you wanted to go to Rose Hill or Kings Gate or some place like that, you'd have little buses running every 15 minutes from those park and rides going back and forth. If you use those as transit centers, you'd accomplish an awful lot and more than you could ever accomplish with light rail because light rail is stuck to a track and can never change. Buses can change. They can adapt to where the people are using it. Once you've got trains, that's what you've got.

I have to admit that he's got a good idea. I'm one of those who said I'd never take the bus, and I don't with one exception. If I'm going to a Mariner's game or some event downtown, I can hop on a bus at the Eastgate park and ride and it will take me down there for \$2.00. When the game is over, I can be on the bus and out of there in 10 minutes. If that was the kind of bus service we had, I think more people would be willing to take it. Right now, you have 100,000 people driving their cars, saying they don't want to have anything to do with the bus.

How many people's spouse would meet them at the park and ride if they knew they were going to be there in 15 minutes?

We got the horse after the cart on this one because we didn't put in the stations first and then the buses. (One respondent agreed.) We've got the buses and now we're trying to expand the park and rides.

Budget Priorities – Transit (Riders)

R: There's a number of routes that have been given away to Sound Transit. For example, from my house, I can't take the bus downtown any more without transferring.

M: **Okay. I see.**

R: I have an almost opposite comment. I live in Woodinville and I work in the east side. Seems like the only way to get around is to either go to Seattle... People in Seattle think the only place people want to go is to downtown Seattle, but there's all this traffic trying to get away from Seattle and going to the east side. Stop being so "Seattle-syntric" and start looking at where your problems are. (One respondent agreed.)

M: **That's under the different routes category?**

R: Or fewer transfers, one or the other.

You made a market researcher's grievous error by putting an "and" in with "greater bus reliability and frequency." I think the system is actually quite reliable. Who wouldn't vote for more frequency?

For example, express buses throughout the day and not just in the mornings.

The metro is actually a very well run system.

If you have access to it. (Several respondents agreed.)

Do you have a series of questions for us wanna-be's?

M: **Yes.**

Budget Priorities – Natural Resources & Environment

M: **Yes?**

R: I live in Carnation so naturally I'm for flood control. My question is, parks and open spaces and regional trails – wouldn't that be the same thing?

M: **They're related, but aren't the same thing.**

R: I can ask the same question on habitat conservation, and I know that salmon habitat would be just streams, but you can't have habitat conservation and habitat restoration unless you do flood control and storm water services.

M: This is an area where a lot of things overlap.

R: I have a point about storm water services. If you're putting more money into storm water services, you wouldn't need to spend billions of dollars on bright water since storm water services are going into the current sewer system right now and being treated. Forty percent of the treatment they're doing now is on storm water.

M: Okay. Thank you. Yes?

R: I'm interested as far as the budget priority and the sentiment of the people here on parks and open space, when the county has been handing off or selling parks to incorporated cities and other entities. It's an interesting contrast.

M: We're going to put some more items in from the last four charts and prioritize those. Any other comments on natural areas priority?

R: Going back to the parks, I certainly want to pay my tax money toward parks, but then I still have to pay for parking once I get to the park.

If we had more open land and open spaces, there wouldn't be nearly as much flooding, either. I've been Issaquah for 21 years. We only had one stop sign. Now it's all over the place. They're clear-cutting and they wonder why downtown Issaquah floods?

M: Population growth clearly is having an impact on all of these things. Yes?

R: I was surprised to see how low on the list building permits and enforcement was because it seems to manage a lot of this. I'm an architect. It's understaffed. It takes forever to get permits. It's not as easy to deal with the King County building department as it is almost anywhere else.

A lot of that responsibility has shifted as the cities have taken over responsibility. I used to be in unincorporated King County. We just got annexed into Issaquah.

M: About 21% of the county's population lives in unincorporated King County. Annexations over the last ten or 15 years have taken a lot of people who used to live in unincorporated areas. They don't move, but the city moves. Other comments? Yes?

R: It seems to me that the county has a role as an over-arching entity. Many

municipalities have formed over the last ten to 15 years. They have taken over some of the responsibilities that the county once had. It seems to me that the county's responsibility should be to connect those varying municipalities together in an infrastructure that is consistent and has cohesiveness across a larger region. For instance, things like regional trails or transit routes or handling of storm water, etc. All of those things, although created or having an emphasis in a smaller municipal area, it ripples across municipal boundaries and that's the role that the county plays – to try to create cohesiveness in the overall system. I think, as we're thinking of budget priorities, one of the things that has to happen is that we have to create a climate within the municipalities and the county to work sympathetically with one another so that the overall picture is better and we don't see each other as little islands of population, but we see ourselves as more of a larger, interconnected community.

M: Here's the chart I was telling you about before.

Open Budget Discussion

M: Let me put it this way. What would you like to do with it?

R: Give it back. (Several respondents agreed.)

I remember reading an article in the paper about bridges in the area are in sad shape. I don't know what it would take, but there was an estimate in the State of Washington.

M: Let's put it toward bridges that are falling down.

R: Yes, bridges that are falling down.

We have 350 bridges in District Three.

I don't think your \$10 million is going to go very far!

I support the Sheriff's Department, etc., etc., but if you catch them and don't do anything else with them, at some point your jails are going to be so overcrowded that you're going to have to open the doors. My vote is going to be for the public defenders and the prosecuting attorneys.

M: So put some more money toward those programs, the prosecuting attorneys and public defenders.

R: Flood control.

M: Flood control. Let's put some more in there. Yes?

R: I would do disaster preparedness.

Low-income housing.

Youth programs. Then maybe we wouldn't need to many public defenders and prosecutors.

Road expansion, like increasing lanes.

New roads.

M: More capacity?

R: Yes.

Public transportation.

M: We have one slot left.

R: If you've got that much money, you took too much in the first place, so cut taxes. Just give it back. Don't take it in the first place.

More substance abuse treatments. If you look at the numbers of the peoples that are sitting in our prisons and jails, 80% of the adults are substance and 60% of the kids.

M: We're all filled up. Is that all right?

R: No! I would like a budgetary contingency fund for when our tax revenues are not as great as they are right now. Economies go up and economies go down. To have a little bit of a savings account is a good idea. A rainy day fund, no pun intended.

M: Okay. A rainy day fund.

R: At risk youth.

M: Is there anything we can combine here?

R: Youth programs and substance abuse.

M: Not really.

R: Roads and bridges.

M: Roads and bridges? Can we do that? Okay.

R: You don't have a place for "other."

M: No, we don't. Maybe that's what we should do. That was a good suggestion. Okay. There they are. Let's do two. Give it back – a tax refund.

END OF REPORT...

DISTRICTS 2 & 8 TRANSCRIPT

King County Budget Workshops

Districts 2-8

Seattle, WA

March 3, 2007

Budget Priorities – Law, Safety & Justice

M: What was your thinking as you made these choices? What was going through your mind as you indicated your priorities?

R: For emergency preparedness and management, that seems to be the area that we're lacking in, as was shown during the two situations we had this winter. It seems like an area we need to fund to get up to a level that would be appropriate for the county.

M: Could you hear?

R: No.

I feel, with the broad category of Superior and District courts, everything that has to do with the quality of life of King County is in that one category.

M: In the courts? Okay.

R: *(Inaudible – background noise and too far from microphone.)*

M: You'll find as we go through a lot of these that there is a lot of overlapping. There's a lot of interconnectedness.

R: Mental health.

M: Mental health? Yes. Under Superior and District courts, you also have mental health, criminal, civil, and family law, therapeutic and drug programs. It is all within the courts.

R: I'm also glad to see, and I feel it is really important, is that juvenile services are up there. If we're not taking care of our kids early on, then they're going to develop problems that are going to lead them into the Superior and District courts, as well as the mental health system. I'm happy to see that made the top three.

These two are lower on the category list, but I think defense over prosecution based on our judicial system *(inaudible – background noise)* innocent until proven guilty.

M: Other comments?

R: As a Harborview nurse I see the devastating lives of the people who are victims and their families. I think that should have a top priority also.

I agree with you, but I think if we're taking care of the higher priorities, there will be less victims.

I don't have a high opinion of the court system because of the area that I live in and also been in court quite a bit in the past. Things that have happened and how corrupt the law enforcement can be.

It seems to me that the people that are involved in public defense are people who just got out of law school. They have not idea. Get some legal experience behind you, then you can become a public defender.

M: Any other comments before we move to the next section? Okay.

Budget Priorities – Public Health

M: What was your thinking?

R: Did you see HIV/AIDS prevention higher up on any of the other communities or different districts? I'm surprised it is so low on the chart.

M: Let's see. It's been about at this position for each one, overall.

R: It has?

M: Yes.

R: That doesn't surprise me.

Is that the same for drug and substance abuse treatment? Have they been about the same for the other districts?

M: Yes.

R: Could the (*inaudible*) program be with the public health?

M: They could take place (*inaudible*). They also take place in other programs. They fund an immunization program. Any other comments on this?

R: I prioritized the pandemic flu preparation. I know there's been a lot of work done on it, but with the number of people that work for private employers and until they change their policies publicly by order from the State government, they have

more and more restrictive attendance policies, so people come to work sick. I don't think all the preparations that we're doing now are going to make any difference until that is changed because people are going to keep coming to work and getting other people sick. Stay and home and you loose your job. Where I work, if you miss five days on sick leave, on the sixth day your out.

I put "other" on there because domestic violence is a public health issue. That is a serious, serious problem in this city and in this country.

M: That's what that is?

R: Yes, I put that as my first priority.

M: Okay, now we'll know what that is when we listen to these tapes. Yes?

R: Drug and substance abuse treatment. Someone brought up the HIV/AIDS problem. I think that a lot of these other issues fall under people putting themselves at risk because of drug and substance abuse. I think when that is taken care of in an appropriate manner, you end up falling down the line on these other items that end up taking care of themselves as a result.

What has it been like before with this grouping? Where did drug abuse come in?

M: It's very similar.

R: I mean in the past, not just with these meetings.

I'm wondering how much intelligence or actual experience was put behind these decisions.

M: Okay, the next category is Community and Human Services.

Budget Priorities - Community & Human Services

M: What was the thinking here? Let's hear from some other voices.

R: I'm an elementary school teacher, so a lot of these family services are important. When I think about the kids I work with, (*inaudible – background noise*).

I'm in real estate. I know that the low-income housing Section Eight program is being phased out after 30 or 40 years. This has become a crisis nation-wide.

I think that, without the low-income housing, we really change the mix of the people in the city.

I think senior programs. Most of us are middle aged. We've got parents who are

old. You don't know what to do if something happens. You've got to have some place to call.

I went for the ten-year plan for homelessness. I stay right downtown. A lot of people are homeless and are in bad shape. People that have low-income housing can get it. A lot of people choose to be homeless.

I think that low-income housing is an answer to a lot of those problems. It is a root cause. Having been involved with United Way for almost 30 years, I think that and the youth and family services, as well as senior programs, all sort of tie in to the low-income housing.

I was thinking about a "what about me" program. I pay my \$1,400.00 a month mortgage and my friend pays \$195.00. I paid 100% utilities and she gets a discount. I pay \$500.00 for food and hers is free. I pay a large percent of the medical and hers is free. I have to pay for my child's education and hers is free. Then they somehow have more spendable income. It's okay to say open up your eyes and what about me. They are spending a lot of money and they are low rates.

One of my priorities was the ten-year plan. I'm wondering about ending homelessness. Is that really a realistic goal? I'm also wondering if that is simply the plan, or if that's a plan plus implementation of the plan.

I went with homelessness, too. I drive early in the morning sometimes. I see so many people on the streets. It's really a crime.

I feel the same way about homelessness. I see the same people downtown walking as I did three weeks ago; same clothes, same shoes, no showers. There are two major shower houses downtown. They have disposable razors. They have antibacterial soap. It's really basic. I think it is a situation that is hard for many of them to get out of.

M: Some of the conversation we heard earlier is that it's not that this program or that program isn't important, or that population doesn't need to be served, but it may not be the county government's job. Maybe somebody else should be taking care of it.

R: The homeless in Seattle, how much of that is taken care of by Seattle city as opposed to the county's responsibility?

M: I'm wondering how much of that entered into your thinking.

R: On the previous ones where you looked at pandemic flu and stuff like that, it seems like the Centers for Disease Control can be spending the money to implement the policies that they pass on to the government, the county

government. The county government doesn't need to replicate some of the more extensive efforts.

That's what I thought about. The veterans have the VA. With civil rights, we have the EEOC and better protection, so why would the county duplicate some of those services if they have limited resources?

I happen to have worked for a little while with a liaison agency between the county and various arms of the government dealing with public health. These programs are sometimes duplicated, and sometimes they are simply there. They find areas where they aren't duplicated. For example, in controlling sexually transmitted disease in the area I was working in, it turned out that some people lived near by or in unincorporated King County and there wasn't any agency to serve them at that time. Apparent duplications are really investigative to find out if people are in fact being served at all.

M: You're saying that a lot of these programs that may look duplicative are really not because they are investigated to look to see if some are being served. She worked in a program that was liaison between the county and other agencies related to public health. Part of what they did was look at services in unincorporated areas. I need to keep us moving.

Budget Priorities – Transit (Riders)

R: Are the riders willing to pay for that greater frequency?

M: Good question.

R: You're asking for comments?

M: Yes.

R: I selected transfers because you can have great frequency, but transfers throw off you schedule. I also said more park and rides. If you have more park and rides, you can reduce the number of transfer and have a straight shot.

If there were more bus shelters, maybe people would be willing to ride the bus more.

I ride the bus every day. I did not go with frequency. It seems to me that it's more about if you can get to where you want to go, and how long does it take to get there, rather than if you have to adjust your schedule a little.

M: The issue is if you can get to where you want to go in a timely fashion. The people who have said frequency, is that what you were indicating here?

R: Yes. (Several respondents agreed.)

On number three, bus reliability, I've had a couple of friends who have been metro bus drivers. I know, from their experience, that reliability is often out of their control to a certain extent. There's nothing they can do when 520 is backed up. There's nothing they can do when there is a massive lane closure, accident, etc. The reliability issue, to some extent, is in their hands and yes they should be responsible for that, but that's a greater transportation issue as well. (Two respondents agreed.)

Budget Priorities – Transit (Non-Riders)

M: Yes?

R: I had a question. When you have that lovely, wonderful system that they're working on that's going on Martin Luther King Way, if you live out in Seward Park and Henderson, how do you expect people to get from there? Are they going to have a shuttle or do they expect us to take up walking?

Buses are not the answer.

I think the point was raised on one of the key news programs that said that metro riders have greater difficulty getting from east to west and west to east than they do going from north to south. That issue was not raised at all on these budget priorities. I think it would have an effect. Maybe they could have a sub question about routes.

M: **One of the things we've found is that we could spend a whole week just on metro. That's a topic we could spend all day talking about.**

R: About ACCESS, that is so loose. There are no regular schedules. It is individual scheduling. I'm curious how the county comes up with any money for them at all since it is really pulling a rabbit out of the hat. What do they need for next year? I don't know. I had to use ACCESS for cancer treatment. I won't use them again. Who was in and who was out? There was nothing regular about ACCESS.

I work an off shift. Between greater frequency and the security issue, having something that can practically drop me off at my door, I'm not sure it is financially feasible. (One respondent agreed.)

Budget Priorities – General Priorities

R: I gave that my number one, just because maybe if the county keeps spending so much money on public health clinics, they'll see that they need to get more

involved to make sure that people have health coverage. (One respondent agreed.) So many people aren't covered. They depend on the clinics as their primary caregivers. They only can go to the emergency rooms because they don't have a doctor. If there is more of a local government move toward bringing some kind of health coverage to more people, maybe funds can be redirected to other things.

We've got to think that we're spending a lot of money on old people. Living their last few months of life is costing how many billions of dollars a year? We need to spend money more effectively.

How much can you pay for living?

That's the hard balancing. Should the public pay for it or the individual?

I don't think you can put a price on it. If they're spending it, they should spend it well.

M: I want to shift gears and talk about transportation.

Budget Priorities – Open Budget

M: ...Ten million dollars of unallocated money. What can the county do with that money?

R: Reduce taxes.

Make the county more accessible to me. If I've got to the blue pages and it's not there, the white pages and it's not there, the yellow pages and it's not there, where can I go? It's almost impossible.

M: We could spend the \$10 million to increase access to information.

R: Or put the money aside because the economy doesn't always stay high. It can cool off. You've got to have something for the rainy day. Otherwise, they're going to come back asking for more money at the worst possible time.

M: Rainy day fund is number three. We're going to do nine. Any others?

R: Put an end to homelessness.

Mental health treatment.

Victim's fund or programs.

Emergency preparedness.

HIV/AIDS.

More social workers or counselors in public schools.

Some of these ideas create more ongoing budget issues, too.

M: Do you want to put county money into the schools for social workers? Why not? One more.

R: Immigration services or services for the immigrants.

Put more arts in the schools. Grants from the county for arts in the school.

People need to understand if you have people to do these services, it's an ongoing cost. Once the budget goes away, they always seem to want to refund the thing. Once you've got a program, it's hard to get rid of it.

When I said services for immigrants, I was thinking of those immigrants that asphyxiated (sp?) and thinking of what the county could have done for them.

M: Is there anything we can combine here to make room? We have reduce taxes or give back, increase access to county government to make it more user friendly, reserve for a rainy day fund savings account, put it toward homelessness, put it toward mental health treatment, put it toward victim's programs, put it toward emergency management, put it toward more social workers in schools, services for immigrants. Is that right?

R: Do we get to vote on those?

M: Yes, as soon as we get the screen going.

R: On the immigrants, do you want to separate that into two categories: legal and illegal?

No, just immigrants.

Budget Priorities – Open Budget Results

R: I have a number one which was the rainy day fund and I'm not sure that sticking it...I didn't really like the other options that are there, so I said "other" or "find something else do to with it."

You don't have kids?

I would land for habitats.

M: Basically the top two are to (*inaudible*) spending, then right in there is homelessness.

R: You actually could tie the homelessness and mental health in with the social workers and services for immigrants.

That's why it's so hard for me to pick one.

M: Sure. It's hard when we're just shouting things out in two minutes.

R: If you add "other" to the top two, it's basically don't spend the money on something that's going to be a long-term commitment.

I was thinking about the reducing taxes one. We probably wouldn't get very much back. Ten million, spread out across the county, isn't going to make a big difference to an individual, I don't think, whereas ten million into mental health or homelessness would make a huge difference.

Or a rainy day fund.

M: Did you hear her point? She said that \$10 million, if given back, isn't going to be very much money to any one person or household, but \$10 million to one of these programs could be a lot of money.

R: I would say after the administrative fees, the family fees, what's left? You're always being taxed.

That's just the hypothetical. It's not like they're actually going to actually do that. Come on! This is America. You pay taxes, you die. That's what happens.

I sort of feel the same way. Why give it back? What's the real point in that when it could go toward suffering? If we're paying out our money, why give it back when we haven't asked for it. Just take it and use it

Or take it and save it.

M: Okay, I want to do four quick questions...

DISTRICT 9 TRANSCRIPT

King County Budget Workshops

Districts 9

Black Diamond, WA

March 7, 2007

Budget Priorities- Law, Safety and Justice

M: Okay, same pattern as before. What was the rational?

My first thought, not being an expert on this, but my first thought was when I saw the law safety and justice portion, jail and community seemed grossly disproportional from everything else., the fact that that was such a major priority and the public defense was only, what was it again, 6%. It seemed like it is designed to put people in jail the way the funds are arranged.

M: So your priorities are different from that.

Yeah.

What we need are three different things sometimes.

Perhaps if we put more in juvenile services we wouldn't have so many in the courts. Prevention.

Same with Family Services.

I agree that education and doing more of community things to encourage families to encourage relationships so we don't have to spend. Being proactive and starting as early as possible with family and kids so that everyone grows up to be a responsible adult and they don't grow up being in trouble.

I am unincorporated, so I don't understand the Sheriff area. I don't see the Sheriff, even when I call him, and I say that with issues happening. I am saying to myself why would I put more dollars into that. Obviously the Sheriff department must be different.

M: One of the problems with the Sheriff, and I am learning a lot, but one of the issues with the Sheriff departments is since it provides services for unincorporated areas and there have been more and more incorporated areas in cities and there are new cities forming where there weren't any before and so the responsibilities of the Sheriff may be in an unincorporated area down here and then way up here and then over and back here. It is not like the city of Redmond where I can call and they come over. So I think that is what drives the Sheriff's department budget. The comments I am here are

about prevention and early intervention. Priorities are arrest them and put them in jail and the courts.

And keep them in jail

I live within the city limits and I see police several times a day, so I didn't think the Sheriff's department was a priority for me personally. But I felt like the jails and community corrections were. Recently in the news was the possible early release of offenders that were violating their parole with what they could and couldn't do, but they were going to be released because we didn't have space. So, we obviously have a program to rehabilitate or educate the young to prevent that situation but the last thing I want are my two young teenage girls that travel and work alone, for them to be released into our communities.

Budget Priorities- Public Health

M: Public health clinics top by a good margin and then substance abuse and then it drops substantially to immunization and epidemiology, then restaurant inspections. So what was running through your mind when you answered this question?

R: For my case, in hearing people talk, I don't want to pay for anyone in jail. There has been a big breakdown of family values in the last twenty years. I come from a single parent family. But, my wife and I have been together for almost fourteen years and we have two kids and I don't see divorce or separation happening for us and so I just think we need more family services.

I think with the cost of health care and with employer's reducing the health care for a lot of people, public health clinics are picking up the slack. I can see why that one and the drug and substance abuse, given the fact that we are in an area of drugs, and that drives a whole bunch of other things. I can see why those would be the two priority.

I know restaurant inspection is low on the list, but if you don't have restaurant inspection, you have a lot of disease. Having worked in restaurants all of my life, I have seen a lot of things. I think that is high priority.

M: These are pretty interrelated.

R: I was seriously torn when you asked between two options for the second priority between immunization programs and HIV protection. On the one hand I don't know how much we can do in the community local government with HIV, but the fact that we don't have anything provided the final push. We need to start somewhere.

M: That is a good point and we heard that in other sessions. In some of these, is there a difference between something needs to be done about HIV and should the county government be doing it and I can spend my dollars on something else. Does that play into this?

I think so. I considered that when I made my choice. I do believe that something as world wide and as a national concern as much as a local one and based on that reasoning I feel the federal government should be more involved in funding and whatever is necessary for that. Whereas 3education locally in this sector of our budget, you know public health does more than treat, they are educators so put more money towards that and that is what is going to help us locally. That is going to help the people. You have that kind of education there and there is less drug abuse and less disease.

I know for a fact that there are a lot of federal dollars for AIDS prevention. I know in a couple of states that are having trouble using the dollars.

Are there any statistics as to how much or how many people are actually in the drug and substance abuse programs and if it works?

M: That is a good question. I don't know. One of the reasons we are doing this is that we don't know these things, but one of the things we want to know is what questions you have.

R: I want to see people get better, but I also want to know if money is getting thrown away. It is always King this and King that. King is always on the news.

By in large I don't see health and family issues as government issues. Those are private individual kinds of concerns for the most part. I really wanted to hit other twice because I think the under insured issue hits a lot of poor people and I see that as something where the local government could do something to help with the insurance for children.

Budget Priorities- Community and Human Services.

M: These are all pretty close ranked. What was going through your mind as you indicated your priorities?

R: I put domestic violence and abuse just to end that cycle because there are children involved and we have family values again hopefully to end that cycle.

Low income housing is important because while I think it is used for a lot, I think it is also very misused. You have all of these drug problems and it happens time and time again and it is just a recipe for problems.

Work training programs. If you start with teens through or even the juvenile and keep them busy, hopefully you can save many of them from getting into trouble. Partner with the schools and family services and make that work training like prevention.

Work training has the potential to break a lot of these other cycles or prevent them. Having people gainfully employed and giving them a way to progress is more than anything up there because it has ripples.

If you educate people and get involved in family services, well the only reason you have low income housing is because you don't have an education and you don't have a good job. The more and more you see in the paper that people at retirement age can't retire because they have nothing to retire on and if we start with young kids and their families we can break that cycle. You don't need to have a program that ends homelessness if you have a program that can give them jobs and make them more secure.

I did not pick the first two because I have watched both of those. From programs and services, I just want to see how effective they are. I want to see.

M: Now we are going to take a couple of the items you mentioned and put them into the chart. A lot of things mentioned earlier seemed to have intervention and a lot of money is going to (inaudible). So, it is a difficult problem. You have jails and courts taking up a lot of money and a lot of the comments I am hearing are that programs can reduce the stress on the courts and yet there is a huge stress on the courts. They can't not have those. What would you think if you were writing the budget?

Why can't there be one TV in jail? There are all kinds of comforts in jail and you don't deserve it.

M: So reduce those programs?

A lot of people go to jail because they want to live there. They get free health care and just in the news there was a story about a lady staying in jail so she could get her cancer care. No.

I happen to work for a local school district and know the hoops that we jump through to find supplies and materials to run the programs as best we can the State requires us to provide. I feel that in some of the programs money is misappropriated and spent on things unnecessary and could be used within that category for other purposes such as early intervention. If we can use scratch paper for kids to do stuff on and money is not wasted, then other portions of government can do without some things.

Agreed.

M: Here is a list of the general fund programs. How would you prioritize these? We are looking at programs that cut across those categories.

General Fund Priorities 1

M: A tie. Is there anything to add to our understanding of this chart?

R: Okay, this spot is well put together, but I was thinking that my priorities that I choose now could change in a day depending on what issue is most pressing that day. It depends on if I was talking to someone who worked in a school, I would say that was the top priority or somebody that worked in health services, and I would say that was the top priority. Then there are only people that take up 2% of the budget and I would say they need more and I am not sure if that is an asset or a problem or maybe both.

M: That is a good point and one of the reasons we want a discussion and several meetings rather than just call you on the phone and ask you once and assume that it is a well thought out opinion that is not going to change because they do as we learn more things and we think about them more. It is a way of collecting and measuring public opinion.

I would like to hitch hike on that last. We have a program that we are being given and that is what we are responding to, but if we were to sit down and design a county budget, it is very possible that none of these things would appear and a whole other list would appear. There is the feeling that some of the community is not being taped at all.

M: That is a fair comment, too. They are trying to hear some of the new ideas. We aren't going to make everyone happy and we have actually done exercises like that. We could start over and it could look different, but we do need to deal with these issues and I want to hear from people how you would respond, so that is a good point. Any other comments? We are going to switch gears. There are two questions. The first is for transit riders. You don't have to ride it every day, but somewhat frequently. The next question is if you don't.

Budget Priorities- Transit-Riders

M: Comments?

R: I really don't work very far from home. We have enough vehicles in our family, but we are choosing not to have one for teenager drivers. When necessary because of after school schedules, the bus route itself location as far as where I get on and off is very good. The frequency is not. They are like two and half hours a part. You either get to work an hour and a half early or leave two hours late.

Or in our case, you have the bus routes in the morning and then it doesn't come all day. That makes it very difficult.

Earlier or later would be nice or more frequent during the day to make it more feasible.

This is something I hear about every day. My husband takes the bus and he is furious every day. He takes the downtown King bus thing. They had a bus at 4:00 and it was jam packed and they said, get a bigger bus, get a bigger bus. Instead of getting a bigger bus they just made the time 45 minutes later and everybody is standing around for 45 minutes and getting on another jammed bus.

They thought that would discourage them.

I would take the bus if there were connections and it was reasonable, but I don't. I've lived in Black Diamond for two years and I have not seen one bus. I don't see any buses at all. I don't know where they go or where they are.

The buses here seem to be an inner city thing. There is no way I would consider taking the bus. Last time I took a bus I was in college and it was six hours. There should be other forms of mass transportation.

You know the things they say about the buses, they are looping around in all of these small towns and it is crap. Freeways go from Tacoma to Seattle and they can commute from the state routes that get federal money. Why doesn't one bus take those routes? I try to get to down town Seattle in the South park area and I couldn't do it. They don't ride the main routes. They want to loop around through towns. It is ridiculous. I don't want to pay for that kind of transportation.

Budget Priorities- Transit-Non-Riders

M: So if we had frequent bus routes that would be better? Comments?

R: I have lived in Europe and South America. I take the bus here if I had time and would take it all the time everywhere if we had a system like they have there. Economical and lots of routes.

I totally agree. In Europe it is great. Here we are a century behind, and no one here is willing to pay for it, but we can sit in our cars on the freeway.

I think increasing express and having those park and ride things would also relieve the fuel consumption and the fatigue and stress consumption that most of us experience because we have long commutes. I drive 19 miles to Taccoa from Black Diamond and overall it is not bad. The traffic is minimal and I me the same

amount of time to get to Black Diamond. I don't get bogged like I-5. I lived in Federal Way for years and it takes me the same amount of time to get to Black Diamond. But you know more quality time could be spent on the bus. People could to their laptops or read and there would be less stress and fatigue.

Express buses get there too fast.

The culture has to change here if they want an increase of the value of family. You have to make it available.

M: One thing we have found from doing these meetings is we could do a whole day just on transportation. Another transportation priority issue is for unincorporated areas, if you were going to allocate county budget dollars which do you think should have the highest priority?

Budget Priorities- Transportation

M: What capacity is top priority?

What roads are clocked around here?

169.

410.

120.

If I happen to hit some prime times that people get off work and if you get off earlier there is no problem.

I go back and forth with these whole mass transit and road questions. It is a trade off question and can't go piece meal. The only way you get people to go mass transit is if the infrastructure is in place, so we are caught in a catch 22. I wanted to say other which was this isn't the issue.

M: It is more systemic?

R: Right.

M: If you had to choose between transit improvements or road improvements in the county, which would you give more money to?

Budget Priorities- Transit/Roads

M: Transit improvements. Sixteen to five. That was frequency and more buses.

R: A couple of years ago they were going to put trains through these little areas and the amount of money they spent on getting the land was ridiculous. I was like look we already own this land. Why didn't we talk about a rail system between Tacoma and Seattle? I spent a lot of time in Europe when I was in the military and they have from Rome to Naples train. People live in Naples and go to Rome every day to work because they can take the train.

They ought to do the monorail.

Sure, if it went down I-65 or I-5, but from West Seattle to Seattle, who cares? That is not where the traffic problems are.

M: We are switching. Which of these should have the higher priority in your perspective?

Budget Priorities- Natural Resources/Environmental

M: It is high on the awareness meter right now. Comments on this one?

R: That flood control wouldn't be as high if we didn't have the kind of weather we just had this last year.

R: Like earlier, I think if you took care of the flood control you will be in cooperation with the conservation and if you are taking care of your habitat that would take the salmon habitat as well.

City planning has such an impact on habitat. That is where you need your monitoring and restrictions. Did you see how quickly Covington grew?

R: Another issue was conservation, habitat and preservation were low on the list and that is where we are. I think the idea out here is we want to conserve and protect, but we don't want big city cramming down our throats legislation that will hurt us.

I do want to see the open space and protecting what we have here so it doesn't become very crowded multi-mega shopping and increase of shopping. People that moved out here did so to get away from it all and so we need to protect it and that includes apartments.

There is a lot of growth in this area and we are one of the fastest growing counties around.

On the same idea, I know that the city of Black Diamond has spent years in planning because they are required to allow a certain amount of growth and they

have spent a lot of years and a lot of work planning where those growth areas are going to be done. In the city that I live in I know there is a plan in place for the next years down the road so there will be spaces, but I don't know where it is in the county and I would like to see that happen in the counties as well so they will designate certain areas of denser population so the building can go. But then I also want them to designate and set aside other areas that are going to be a natural plan.

Every city has to support their share of housing and open spaces. Last I heard that wasn't happening in Covington.

M: They are trying in general to concentrate the growth in areas that are urbanized and keep the growth out of other areas. We are going to do another chart for you here. How long have you lived here in this area?

R: 12 years.

21 years.

32 years.

10 years.

35 years.

10 years.

14 years.

I grew up on a farm that is now condominium apartment complex. It was my uncle's farm from Benson to the elementary and all the way up to where the creek was. When they took that house out of there, it was oh no.

Did they compensate?

It was my uncle's and he had already sold it before that. I would like to see farm lands. Canada has put in a thing where farmlands are mandatory and they have set aside certain areas and people that own that are now putting up grain yards so they can produce all year round. If you have farm land you have to do something.

General Fund Priorities 2

M: So public health clinic keeps coming up to the top. We have work training that we discussed. Family and youth services. Any comments here? Was this a hard choice to make?

R: Early intervention and corrections was high on the list and now it is not.

It just seems to be prevention.

M: So here is something a little bit like you suggested. Let's assume that King County has \$5 or \$10 million dollars that can be spent on some program or initiative. What would you do?

R: To some this might sound strange, but I would say parent registration and licensing. I think you should be licensed to have childcare. I know that is extreme and sounds weird, but having children without being prepared or even being bale to be a good parent and responsible. Let's just put parenting up there.

I have to put in outpatient for total family rehab and that would encompass the education.

Health so people can get the medicines they need.

They have teen clinics and senior health and parents with little children health. You have young adults that don't have jobs or health insurance that struggle to have insurance.

Universal health insurance.

You can establish a plan and get people on board.

Pay down the debt.

How about this mass transit thing?

Yeah, a map or plan for mass transit.

I think we need more volunteers so I am thinking of some sort of initiative or campaign to get people to volunteer and support the community.

The state should open a casino and use the money from the machines.

Make the whole state Indian land.

How about something to do, what I get disgusted with is when I am driving down the road and there is so much garbage and litter. Why doesn't the jail system take the inmates out to clean up these roads?

Environmental protection. Not just clean roads, but clean everything else.

Emergency preparedness. I don't think there are enough people prepared.

M: We have better education, outpatient or total family rehab, health programs, pay down debt, mass transit, simulate or generate volunteers, clean roads, environmental programs and emergency preparedness. Let's include those in the list here. So, here is your list of what to do with \$10 million dollars.

Open Budget Discussions

M: Health by a couple of points and then mass transit, better education, pay down the debt, family rehab, emergency preparedness, volunteer, clean roads and the rest. Anybody have comments?

R: Actually I did other because of what he said about employee programs.

Unemployment programs get people off the debt.