

TO: Coalition of Union Represented Employees
FROM: King County Coalition of Unions
DATE: Tuesday, October 14, 2008
RE: Negotiations Pertaining to County Budget Deficit

On Monday, October 13, 2008, King County Executive, Ron Sims, presented the 2009 budget to the King County Council. An \$8 million deficit remains which the Executive seeks to balance through terms negotiated with the Coalition of Unions.

Today, the Coalition of Unions and representatives from the Executive's office began negotiations to address the outstanding \$8 million budget deficit. The County has proposed an 80-hour furlough with no anticipated affect upon retirement, seniority, vacation/sick leave and benefits accrual. The details of the furlough have yet to be negotiated but the County has indicated their willingness to be flexible in the implementation of the time off. The County's initial proposal also indicates that there will be no change to the current COLA formula for 2009.

Should an agreement not be reached through good faith negotiations, the County has taken the position that they have the legal authority to unilaterally implement a furlough. The alternative to an agreed upon or implemented furlough would be an additional layoff of approximately 120 represented employees effective January 1, 2009.

The Coalition of Unions and representatives from the Executive's office will return to the bargaining table tomorrow, October 15, 2008 to continue negotiations. We will keep you apprised as discussions progress.