



Seattle City Council

2010 annual report



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The Seattle City Council focused on 17 critical issue areas in 2010 and we made progress on each of these, including adopting major legislative initiatives and working cooperatively with our regional partners to advance important projects.

We set two complementary key tasks for the year, both defined by the ongoing economic recession. The first was to **revise and approve a sustainable budget**, which we accomplished while preserving critical public safety and human services. Our second key task was to **further short and long-term economic recovery** by creating new City initiatives, developing more green jobs and providing focused re-training programs.

We also made key steps on other priorities:

- **Partnership:** Launched the *Seattle for Washington* program to proactively build relationships with elected officials around the region and state, secured funding commitment for Seawall from Flood Control District and new transit service policies.
- **Race and Social Justice:** Created a Commission for People with Disabilities and a Seattle Youth Commission, and continued the work of the Race and Social Justice initiatives in the City and the community.
- **Transportation Choices:** Adopted a Transportation Benefit District and Vehicle License Fee, created a Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee-III to prioritize Seattle's future transportation needs.
- **Clean Energy:** New energy efficient building codes and conservation and renewable development.
- **Access and Transparency:** Continued work on making the legislative process more transparent and adopted public hearing policies relating to capital projects and public/private partnerships
- **Schools and Education:** Continued strengthening the partnership with Seattle Schools and advancing the next Families and Education levy.
- **Public Safety:** Confirmed new police chief, reserved the right to establish a rental inspection program and approved a nightlife nuisance civil infraction ordinance.

A more extensive summary of the implementation of the Council priorities can be found on our web site, at www.seattle.gov/council.

Making new development work for neighbors, saving treasures

We started the year ensuring **Seattle Children's Hospital** will continue to call Seattle home and provide great care for kids. An agreement yielded pedestrian improvements, landscape buffers, affordable housing to replace units lost to the expansion, and certainty in allowed expansion scale.



Around the City, COBE adjusted **zoning in Ballard** to foster new development and keep it buffered from long-standing ship canal industry; adopted specialized **design guidelines for the Pike/Pine neighborhood**; began reevaluating the **zoning in the neighborhoods south of Downtown**; and adopted rules **preserving 20 landmarks**.

We ended the year approving an **overhaul of rules for town houses, row houses and small apartment buildings**. Council pushed for better design, better landscaping, "greener" performance, and greater density near frequent transit. The changes respond directly to outcry Council has heard for several years about poor development in neighborhoods.

Committee on the Built Environment, Councilmember Sally J. Clark, Chair

Establishing long-term energy goals

This year we passed legislation to create the \$100 million **Rate Stabilization Account** which will protect customers from high rate increases when shortfalls in wholesale revenues occur.

We created a nine member **Review Panel** directed to develop, for the first time, a long-term strategic plan to serve as a road map to City Light's future.

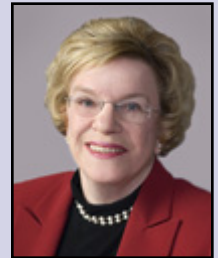
We directed City Light to **improve streetlight maintenance** and implement LED streetlights. Streetlight outages have been reduced from 23,000 in 2004 to less than 1,000 today; 5,000 LED streetlights were installed in 2009 with 10,000 more coming in 2010. All 40,000 residential streetlights will be converted to LED by the end of 2013.



Energy, Technology and Civil Rights Committee, Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Chair

Promises made were promises kept

Without a doubt, this past year, my third as chair of the City Council Budget Committee, has been the most difficult. Each year, we have streamlined city services and employment and we did so again this time around. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to comment, share your concerns and offer suggestions on how to balance the budget.



This year's budget definitely isn't pretty, but it is humane. It is in keeping with Seattle values and keeps the promise made by the Council earlier in the year to protect public safety and human services from deep cuts – maintaining city resources to meet the next challenge.

Finance and Budget Committee, Councilmember Jean Godden, Chair

Preserving human services

In the midst of the most difficult City budget in recent memory, Licata worked with the **Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI)** to restructure its receipt of \$8.5 million from the State through the City to MOHAI, funds intended to compensate them for the State's purchase of MOHAI's McCurdy Park property during the rebuild of State Route 520's floating bridge.

Delaying this payment for two years allowed the Council to **restore planned cuts to critical human services**, such as domestic violence prevention training, homeless shelter providers and services, childcare referral services and coordinating services for food and meal providers.



**Housing, Human Services,
Health, and Culture
Committee, Councilmember
Nick Licata, Chair**

Protecting all residents in these tough times

The Council continued its **focus on public safety and human services** and where the two meet. During its fall budget deliberations, the Council **restored full funding for domestic violence intervention programs and for the police department's victim advocates**, professionals who assist victims and witnesses of major felony crimes.



Earlier in 2010, a residential recovery pilot program for prostituted children called **The Bridge** was launched, championed by the Council and funded from public and private sources. Working with mayoral staff and a citizen planning committee, the Council also laid the groundwork for the next **Families and Education Levy**, which provides supplemental funding for academic, health and other support services for Seattle's schoolchildren.

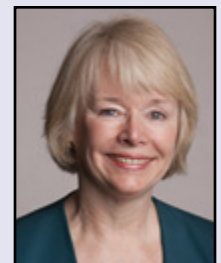
**Public Safety and Education Committee,
Councilmember Tim Burgess, Chair**

Supporting resources to best serve our residents

In 2010, I was honored to chair the Parks and Seattle Center Committee. In light of a dire economic forecast and facing inevitable cuts, we made great strides and have much to highlight. Here are some of our noteworthy accomplishments:

- **Community centers are open in 2011.** We are crafting a new work plan focused on operations and programming.
- More than \$7 million will be awarded to 15 community-initiated projects, thanks to the 2008 **Parks & Green Space Levy's Opportunity Fund**.
- Design funding was secured for the **Lake-to-Bay Loop Trail**, connecting Lake Union Park to the waterfront via Seattle Center.
- Council upheld the agreement with **MOHAI** and we look forward to a new regional history museum anchoring Lake Union Park.
- An agreement was reached to include **KEXP**, an imaginative family playspace and a **Chihuly** exhibition in Seattle Center's Fun Forest.

We did great things in 2010, and I look forward to continuing the momentum through 2011.



Parks and Seattle Center Committee, Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Chair

Restoring our economy

Economic recovery was the Committee's primary focus in 2010. We advanced several initiatives and programs that support business retention and expansion through direct outreach and assistance to businesses in the manufacturing, maritime, clean technology, life sciences, and global health sectors. We also adopted legislation to implement the New Markets Tax Credit Program and Recovery Zone Bond Program, two federal programs that create jobs and spur economic development in our city.



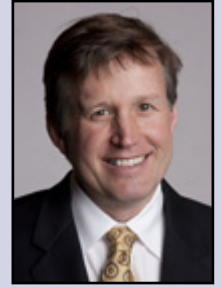
This year the Committee advanced the Council's goal of a carbon neutral city by updating the City's Climate Action Plan and developing a Climate Mitigation and Adaptation strategy to protect our infrastructure from changing climate.

We made progress implementing my Local Food Action Initiative through the creation of a Food System Interdepartmental Team and approval of urban farm and community garden legislation to increase access to locally grown food.

**Regional Development and Sustainability Committee,
Council President Richard Conlin, Chair**

Making headway toward zero waste

In 2010, the Council committed to becoming the **nation's first carbon neutral city** and commissioned the Stockholm Environment Institute to analyze scenarios and present a framework for planning.



Council also advanced its zero waste agenda by **expanding community waste reduction grants** and extending the food waste service to apartment and condominium buildings.

This summer, the Council adopted legislation creating an easy, reliable **yellow-pages opt-out system** that will stop unwanted delivery and increase privacy.

In September, the community joined the carbon neutrality planning process by presenting recommendations across eight issue sectors, including joint land use and transportation planning, expanding opportunities for local food production, developing District Energy projects, and finding ways to engage neighborhoods and young people.

**Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee,
Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Chair**

Getting more bang for our transportation buck

This year, we developed a series of agreements with the State for the **Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement** that protect the city and keep this important safety project moving forward. The City also partnered with the State to select a more neighborhood-friendly replacement of the **SR 520 bridge** and broke ground on fixing the "**Mercer Mess.**"

Working with Sound Transit, construction is underway on the extension of **light rail to Capitol Hill and the University of Washington**. With voter-approved **Bridging the Gap** funds, we repaved 30 miles of arterial streets, replaced the NE 45th Street Viaduct, rebuilt the Jose Rizal Bridge, funded 11 neighborhood Street Fund projects and 15 blocks of new sidewalks and added 14,800 bus hours. We also worked with the County to find funding for a new **South Park Bridge**.



Transportation Committee, Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Chair