



Washington Coalition for Open Government

washingtoncog.org

Officers

Toby Nixon, President
Kirkland City Council
Microsoft Corporation

Michele Earl-Hubbard, Vice-President
Allied Law Group

Sam Pace, Secretary
Association of REALTORS®

D. Edson Clark, Treasurer
Clark, Raymond & Company

Board of Directors

Emily Arneson
Witherspoon Kelley

William Crittenden
Attorney at Law

Judith A. Endejan
Garvey Schubert Barer

George Erb
Former, Puget Sound Business Journal Editor

Mike Fancher
Private Citizen

Kathy George
Harrison Benis & Spence LLP

Marty McCurry
McCurry Investments, Inc.

Jason Mercier
Director, Washington Policy Center

Cynthia Mitchell
Central Washington University

Walter Neary
Comcast PR Director
Former Lakewood City Council

Margaret Pak Enslow
American Civil Liberties Union

Karen Peterson
The News Tribune

Rep. Gerry Pollet
WA State Representative, 46th District
Executive Director, Heart of America NW

Jeff Rhodes
The Freedom Foundation

Kathy Sakahara
League of Women Voters of Washington

Larry Shannon
Washington State Association for Justice

Eric Stahl
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Marcia Van Dyke
WA Newspaper Publishers Association

Peggy Watt
Western Washington University

Board Emeritus

James A. Andersen, Retired
Supreme Court Chief Justice

Alan Thompson, Retired
Legislator, Chief Clerk of the House

info@washingtoncog.org
6351 Seaview Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98107-2664
Phone: 206.782.0393 FAX: 206.623.4474

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2016

Washington Coalition for Open Government
6351 Seaview Avenue NW
Seattle Washington 98107-2664
www.washingtoncog.org
Phone: (206) 782-0393

SEATAC CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES KEY AWARD FROM WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

Members of the city council of SeaTac were presented a Key Award by the Washington Coalition for Open Government (WCOG) last Tuesday, in recognition of their prominently posting a plaque containing the preamble to the state Open Public Meetings Act in the council chamber at SeaTac City Hall.

The large Plexiglas plaque, approximately five feet wide and two feet tall, was presented to the city on January 12 by a group of citizens supportive of government transparency. It quotes the following words, which also appear in the state Public Records Act:

“The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.”

The plaque is mounted on the front wall of the council chamber in full view of the audience and where council members can see it at every meeting.

The award was presented by WCOG President Toby Nixon to SeaTac Mayor Rick Forschler and the other council members in a brief ceremony during the council’s regular business meeting on February 23.

“The Coalition believes those three sentences to be the most important words in the entire Revised Code of Washington, and we quote them often.” said Nixon. “The SeaTac City Council could have placed this gift

in a storage room or private office where nobody would see it, but they gave it a place of honor in their chamber where they and everyone who comes to council meetings will be reminded of the proper relationship between the people and their government. This is a great example for other agencies around the state, and they are to be commended for it.”

The Key Award is presented by WCOG in recognition of a single good act in support of open government. Anyone aware of such acts may nominate recipients for consideration by the WCOG board by submitting the nomination form found at <http://washingtoncog.org/award-nominations/>.

Washington Coalition for Open Government is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for the people’s right to know what their government is doing. Membership is open to the public. For more information, contact WCOG at 6351 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664, on the web at www.washingtoncog.org, or call (206) 782-0393.