



**For Immediate Release  
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**Contact: Carrie Shaw  
(425) 344-1787**

**Countywide Community Forums welcomes new Deputy Coordinator  
*Maurice Ward to lead youth and outreach to communities of color  
Issues of equity and economic opportunity focus of next round of forums***

SEATTLE – King County’s nationally recognized Countywide Community Forums (CCF) today announced the appointment of Maurice Ward to serve as Deputy Citizen Councilor Coordinator for the program. King County Auditor Cheryle Broom appointed Ward to serve a 12-month term. He joins Citizen Councilor Coordinator John Spady, son of Dick Spady, president of Dick’s Drive-In Restaurants and founder of the CCF program, and Carrie Shaw, CCF Deputy Citizen Councilor Coordinator who is serving her second term.

Maurice has spent his career building relationships with community stakeholders for the purpose of developing a better environment and quality of life for people throughout King County. He is the founder and Executive Director of the [Multicultural Counseling Services, Ltd.](#) specializing in a holistic approach to chemical dependency with intervention, treatment, and restoration of people and families impacted by drug and alcohol abuse. He also serves on the Governor’s Washington Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice as of November 8, 2010.

“Maurice brings a deep understanding about the human and social capital needs of our community,” says Spady, “He understands how public and private organizations can work together more effectively to provide support structures that cost less and do more. We’re honored that Maurice accepted our invitation to become a member of our CCF team.”

“It is inherent in the nature of grass-roots organizations such as CCF, to reach out to the widest possible audience,” says Ward, “I feel that the idea of diversity must extend beyond race and we must recognize both that which is unique and that which is similar. To understand that differences do not necessarily preclude similarities, is to understand diversity.”

The topic for Round 7 is “*Equity and Economic Opportunity Across King County.*” County residents will be asked to look at health issues and human potential related to disadvantaged communities, barriers to economic growth, and challenges facing the Unincorporated Areas of the county. Forums throughout King County and online participation are scheduled to begin in mid-April. To register or learn more go to [CommunityForums.org](#) or call toll-free at (800) 369-2584.

For Round 7, CCF participants will provide input through a survey with a focus on solutions in key areas: Equity issues related to health and human services, barriers to job creation and business growth, and challenges for Unincorporated Areas of King County in providing services in an era of budget shortfalls. Results of the CCF survey will be released to the public and media in June. Results from past Rounds are available online at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/auditor/communityforums>

A record 766 people participated last fall in Round 6. Over 2,000 people have registered to serve as a *Citizen Councilor* since the program began in 2007. Tim O’Reilly, internationally recognized leader of the Gov 2.0 movement, and the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2.org) have recognized CCF as an innovative project designed to encourage civic engagement.

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