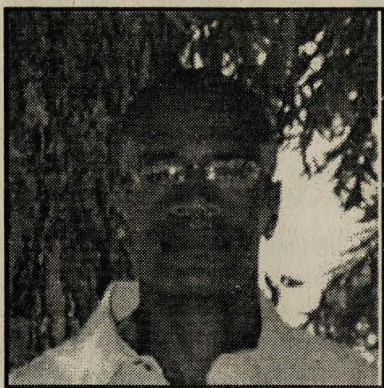


Maurice Ward Appointed Deputy Coordinator Of Countywide Community Forums

King County's nationally recognized Countywide Community Forums (CCF) recently 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.

Ward has spent his career building relationships with



Maurice Ward

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.

"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."

In April, the CCF will conduct round 7 of their forums. 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.

To register or learn more go to CommunityForums.org or call toll-free at (800) 369-2584.

seattlemedium.com

37th District Lawmakers To Hold Town Hall Meeting At Garfield Community Center

The 37th District legislative delegation of Sen. Adam Kline and Reps. Sharon Tomiko Santos and Eric Pettigrew will host a local town hall meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Sat., Mar. 12 at the Garfield Community Center located at 2323 E. Cherry Street in Seattle.

The three lawmakers will provide an update on the 2011 Legislative Session and invite you to share your comments and questions about the most important issues facing the 37th District. The event is free and open to the public.

Fraud-Fighting Bill Wins Unanimous House Approval

OLYMPIA—State Rep. Cindy Ryu reached a major milestone in her effort to save Washington's Mortgage Lending Fraud Prosecution Account.

The House of Representatives voted 97-0 for Ryu's proposal to cancel the scheduled July termination of the fraud-fighting account and extend its life to the end of June, 2016.

"Criminals continue to prey on Washington's residents with a variety of mortgage fraud schemes," said Ryu (D-Shoreline), who represents the 32nd District. "Local prosecutors would not have the resources to pursue these criminals without this resource."

The Legislature created the Mortgage Lending Fraud Prosecution Account in 2003 to help pay for prosecutions of mortgage fraud, which often involve lengthy, complex and costly cases that would otherwise impose heavy burdens on the budgets of county prosecutors. Funds for the account are generated by a \$1 surcharge on county recording fees for deeds of trust.

Deb Bortner, the Director of Consumer Services at the state Department of Financial Institutions, said her agency requested the bill (HB 1191) in order to keep the original law alive and "continue the good work of the prosecutors' offices all around the state."

"Before the statute passed, mortgage fraud prosecution was really almost non-existent," Bortner told a Jan. 18 public hearing. Bortner said the fund has already helped to produce dozens of felony convictions for mortgage fraud, but the crime remains a serious problem for homeowners.

"We know that many Washington homeowners are now suffering as a result, and they're in the process of losing

their homes, all because of mortgage fraud," Bortner said. "One dollar per deed of trust is really not a lot to provide this kind of service and put those bad actors away so they can't do this to our homeowners again."

The \$1 surcharge on deeds of trust is unusual in that it was originally suggested by the mortgage industry, which is now urging lawmakers to protect

homeowners by passing Ryu's bill before the fraud-fighting account expires.

"We wholeheartedly support it," said Steve Buckner on behalf of the Washington Association of Mortgage Professionals. "We do not want the bad actors in the industry. We want them out."

The chair of the House Business and Financial Services Committee, Rep. Steve Kirby

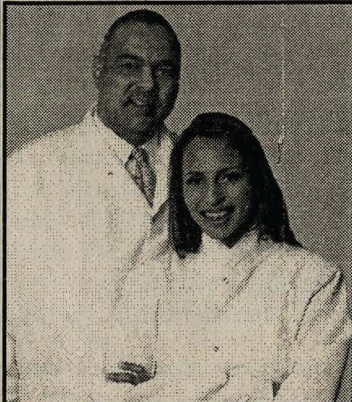
(D-Tacoma), said it was surprising to see a bill that continues a state fee earn universal support.

"Not one single person in the state of Washington has signed in opposed to this bill," Kirby remarked during the public hearing.

The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

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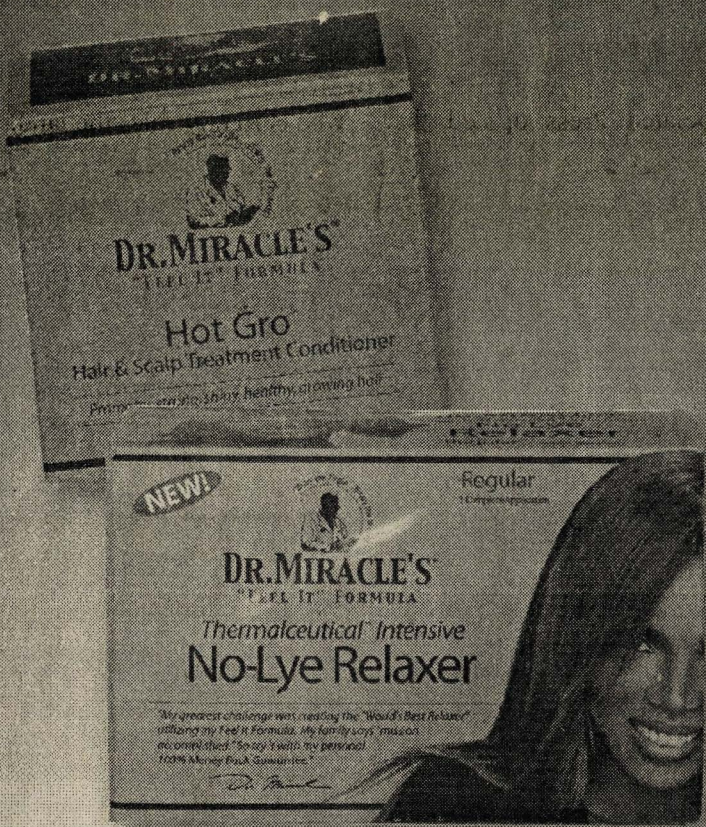
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