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PRESS RELEASE

Sumner Announces Lodging Tax Grant Funding Available

Sumner, WA—The City of Sumner announces that organizations may submit applications to be considered for receiving Lodging Tax Grants in 2011. The City expects its two hotels to generate enough revenue in 2011 to allocate approximately \$50,000 to non-profit or government organizations to generate more tourism to Sumner. Applications are currently available on the City website at www.ci.sumner.wa.us and are due by 4 pm on November 4, 2010.

In order to apply for funding, organizations must be a 501(c)3 or 501(c)6 non-profit or government and must use the funds to not only bring tourists to Sumner but also be able to account for how many tourists came as a result of their project. Washington State Law (RCW 67.28) limits the use of lodging tax funds to one of the following uses:

- tourism promotion and/or to market and operate special events and festivals, and/or
- acquisition or management of tourism-related facilities.

The State defines “tourist” as someone who visits from more than 50 miles away and/or stays overnight.

“The idea behind the lodging tax law is ensure a healthy tourism industry for communities into the future. Once tourists come to Sumner, they spend money here by shopping and dining. That money then supports local businesses as well as other City services through sales tax revenue,” said Carmen Palmer, communications director. A report produced by Dean Runyan Associates for the Tacoma Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau showed that in 2009, tourism spending in Sumner accounted for \$600,000 in local tax receipts.

With the opening of the Holiday Inn Express, Sumner now generates enough lodging tax revenue to form its own committee and allocate its own funds. Earlier this year, the Sumner City Council established the committee confirmed appointments from individuals who applied. The committee is chaired by Councilmember Cindi Hochstatter with members Tammy Blount from the Tacoma Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Gerald Garcia from the Holiday Inn Express in Sumner, Shelly Schlumpf from the Puyallup/Sumner Chamber of Commerce and a representative from the Sumner Motor Inn.

Once the due date for applications has passed, the committee will hear presentations from applicants on November 10 and then make funding recommendations to the Sumner City Council for the Council’s final approval. The City of Sumner is also hosting an informal information session on October 22 at 2 pm in City Hall. Any organizations that think they may apply but are unsure of the requirements or process are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

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