

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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King County donates \$75,000 for Family First Community Center



Photo: From Left to Right- King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn, Mayor Denis Law, Seattle Seahawk Doug Baldwin, Renton School District Superintendent Damien Pattenaude, King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove.

Renton, WA: King County Councilmembers Dave Upthegrove and Reagan Dunn presented a check for \$75,000 for Family First Community Center using Kingdome surplus funds. Mayor Denis Law and Seahawks player Doug Baldwin received the check for the center, which will be a gathering place that will provide a variety of health and recreation opportunities for youth in the Cascade/Benson Hill area.

“It is great that supporters throughout the region are stepping forward to help with this important effort, and we are delighted to receive this check from King County,” said Mayor Denis Law. “My personal thanks to King County Councilmembers Dave Upthegrove and Reagan Dunn for their help to champion this effort and recognize the benefits that Family First Community Center can provide for the children and youth in our community.”

Family First Community Center is a partnership between the City of Renton, Doug Baldwin from the Seattle Seahawks, Renton School District and HealthPoint, a healthcare provider that will provide services at the center. The vision of Family First Community Center is to provide youth and families in the area with services such as health and fitness programs as well as educational and recreational opportunities.

Family First Community Center received a grant of \$3 million from First Financial Northwest Foundation and Renton City Council has authorized \$4 million. Renton School District is expected to provide land for the center next to Cascade Elementary School. Additionally, Renton auto dealer Car Pros has pledged to make a donation to the community center for every car sold. The estimated cost to build the center is about \$15 million. Over the next several months the partners will launch a full-fledged capital campaign to solicit additional partners and funds, develop a design for the center, and establish programs.

“The Family First Center represents amazing community partnerships and has a mission dedicated to supporting youth and families in Renton,” said King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove. “Our County contribution will help bring wrap around services to the Benson Hill neighborhood of my district. I’m so excited to be a part of this project.”

The Cascade/Benson Hill area was annexed to the city in 2008. The area has nearly a quarter of the city’s population with 12% below the poverty line. Twenty percent of the population is 14 years or younger and the community is very diverse. The area has also been historically underserved, though after the area was annexed the city increased police services and also made significant investments in roads and infrastructure. However, there has been no investment in recreation services for family and youth. Family First Community Center will meet that need and offer a whole host of programs including sports and recreation, health and wellness, plus classes in technology, music and English as a second language.

“Community centers provide valuable programs and services to families,” said King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn. “I am glad to have helped secure funding to support the vision of the Family First Community Center facility and how it will support the Greater Renton Community.”

About the City of Renton

The City of Renton, Washington, with a population of 102,700 (2017), is located on the southeast shore of Lake Washington, just south of Seattle. Renton's strong economic base, diverse marketplace and favorable business climate have attracted the attention of nationally recognized companies that are providing employees and their families an outstanding quality of life. Renton is the home of Boeing, PACCAR, IKEA, the Seattle Seahawks, and the eternal resting place of Jimi Hendrix. More information can be found on our [website](#), or [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Nextdoor](#) pages.

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