



City of Seattle  
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Mayor Recognizes Businesses in the Rainier Valley Thanks businesses along Martin Luther King for their commitment**

SEATTLE - Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels gathered with local businesses and community members in the Rainier Valley to recognize businesses supported by the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund (RVCDF) for their commitment to the community.

“These businesses along the light rail alignment face a bright future, but we must work to help them survive the business challenges during construction,” said Mayor Nickels. “The Rainier Valley Community Development Fund is supporting these impacted businesses so that they not only survive, but flourish.”

The City established the \$50 million Transit-Oriented Development Fund for Southeast Seattle in 1999 with Sound Transit and King County. The Fund’s purpose is to help mitigate the impacts of light rail construction on local businesses; provide financial assistance to stimulate community development; and promote workforce development in the Rainier Valley.

“Businesses along the light rail alignment are working hard to maintain and grow their businesses,” said Jaime Garcia, Executive Director of the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund. “We encourage Seattle citizens to come visit to see the transformation unfolding as light rail is being built, experience the rich diversity of our community, and support our neighborhood businesses by shopping and dining in the Rainier Valley.”

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## RVCDF Martin Luther King Businesses, Page Two

The Mayor recognized five businesses who have utilized business interruption payments from the RVCDF along Martin Luther King Jr. Way South. Local businesses recognized at the event were: Espi's Sausage, Minh's Restaurant, Platinum Plush, Smitty's Used Cars, and We Care Medical Clinic.

As of October, 2005, the RVCDF has approved \$7.2 million dollars for disbursement to assist 119 businesses impacted by light rail construction.

In addition to the work of Rainier Valley Community Development Fund and the public investments through the Sound Transit light rail line and the Seattle Housing Authority's NewHolly and Rainier Vista projects, the Mayor launched his Southeast Seattle Action Agenda in March, 2005, to bring additional investment to the Rainier Valley for housing, jobs, education, arts and parks.

The Mayor's Action Agenda – based on extensive community involvement – is guiding revitalization efforts and targeting significant resources to insure the current residents and businesses in the Rainier Valley benefit from the profound changes taking place.

For more information on the Mayor's Southeast Seattle Action Agenda, please visit the mayor's website at [www.seattle.gov/mayor](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor) or call 206-684-8811.

The Rainier Valley Community Development Fund is a self-sustaining, community-controlled non-profit financial institution that preserves and strengthens cultural diversity, long-term livability, and economic opportunity for Rainier Valley residents, businesses and institutions. For more information, visit the Fund's website at [www.rvcdf.org](http://www.rvcdf.org) or contact them at: 206-722-5280.

Get the mayor's inside view on initiatives to promote transportation, public safety, economic opportunity and healthy communities by signing up for The Nickels Newsletter at [www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter\\_signup.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter_signup.htm).

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