

**Press Release**

May 1, 2004

For more information:

**Mickey Fearn,** [REDACTED]

For Immediate Release

## **Mayor unveils Citywide Race and Social Justice Initiative**

Mayor Greg Nickels today unveiled his Race and Social Justice Initiative, a Citywide effort to ensure that City services and opportunities are available to all residents of Seattle.

“The vitality of Seattle depends not only on physical things like transportation, but also on spiritual qualities like respect and inclusion,” said Mayor Nickels. “We cannot reach our full potential as a city until we acknowledge issues of race and tap the potential of all our residents.”

The Mayor’s Race and Social Justice Initiative will focus on 4 key areas:

- Changing the City’s policies, practices and procedures to remove barriers to people’s use of City services;
- Increasing economic opportunities for people of color, especially in the area of jobs and contracts;
- Improving civic engagement, to foster a stronger sense of community and a better connection between citizens and their government;
- Eliminating disproportionality in schools and home ownership.

The Seattle Office for Civil Rights will coordinate the Initiative on behalf of the Mayor, and will provide support to City Departments as they review and revise their own policies and practices.

“Creating new opportunities and changing people’s attitudes is a long-range project,” said Mayor Nickels. “None of this will happen overnight – but we can begin *now* to change how the City does business, and to make a real difference in people’s lives.”

For more information on the Mayor’s Race and Social Justice Initiative, please contact Mickey Fearn at [REDACTED].

#####