King County

Department of Assessments
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Assessor

As we start a new decade and prepare the 2010 revaluations for the 2011 Tax Roll, it is important for staff to review our standards for completing our assessments for this year. As Deputy Assessors, first, everyone works for the taxpayers of King County and we must do our work in the most fair and equitable manner. Second, we will take pride in doing the best professional job possible. Third, we will treat all taxpayers with respect and value their opinions.

To further those standards, all appraisers are directed to:

- Use all appropriate mass appraisal techniques as stated in Washington State Laws, Washington State Administrative Codes, 2010 Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), and accepted International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) standards and practices.
- Work with your supervisor on the development of the annual valuation plan and develop the scope of work for your portion of appraisal work assigned, including physical inspections and statistical updates of properties;
- Validate for correctness physical characteristics for all vacant and improved properties and, where applicable, validate sales data for those properties;
- Appraise land as if vacant and available for development to its highest and best use. The improvements are to be valued at their contribution to the total in compliance with applicable laws, codes and DOR guidelines. The Jurisdictional Exception is applied in cases where Federal, State or local laws or regulations preclude compliance with USPAP;
- Develop valuation models as delineated by the IAAO (Standard on Mass Appraisal of Real Property, 2002; rev 2008). Apply models uniformly to sold and unsold properties, so that ratio statistics can be accurately inferred to the entire population. Validate models as delineated by IAAO in their Standard on Ratio Studies (approved July 2007).
- Prepare written reports in compliance with USPAP Standard 6 for Mass Appraisals. The intended users of your appraisals and the written reports include the Assessor, the King County Board of Equalization, the Washington State Board of Tax Appeals, the King County Prosecutor and the Washington State Department of Revenue. The intended use of the appraisals and the written reports is the administration of ad valorem property taxation.

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