



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Mike Gowrylow

(360) 534-1610

Bellingham Joins Department's Business Registration Service

OLYMPIA, July 18, 2012 – The city of Bellingham has partnered with the Department of Revenue's Business Licensing Service (BLS) to manage its business registrations.

The new structure allows for all businesses seeking a Bellingham business registration and a state business license to apply in a single process via the state's online service at business.wa.gov/BLS. Registrations can also be sent to state business licensing offices or Bellingham city hall.

Bellingham has also added a new online local Business & Occupation (B&O) tax payment method at its website, <http://cob.org/services/business/>.

“Combining the city registration and state license application simplifies steps for our local businesses to get up and running with no added costs. The new online options will also speed up the process and reduce the chance of errors or incomplete applications,” said John Carter, city of Bellingham finance director.

Fifty-four Washington cities currently use BLS for combined licensing with state agencies. The next partner, Spokane, joins in fall 2012.

###