September is “Ready in Renton” month

The King County Council has passed legislation to protect drivers and those who drive for ride share companies like Uber and Lyft.

The legislation will apply to all taxi and for-hire drivers in the county and requires awareness training for all for-hire drivers as part of their county licensing process. The legislation would also apply to ride-sharing drivers, and those who drive for ride share companies like Uber and Lyft.

The new program will teach drivers how to spot potential trafficking victims and save themselves from exploitation. The legislation will take effect in 30 days and the city will schedule training that teaches disaster response techniques. The seven-week class starts on Sept. 17 and runs on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and concludes on Oct. 29. The course will be taught on a first-come, first-served basis.

City Hall is an on-again, off-again kind of event. We would like to resume with the City Council on the importance of “Ready in Renton.”

On Saturday, Sept. 14, we held the Pacific Northwest Diversity Career Fair as 47 public sector employers visited with 140 job seekers. It was a great event that not only connected the two groups, but also offered resume assistance and sessions on job placement.

In early 2018 we made significant changes to our hiring policies. Now when you apply for a job with the city, you do it anonymously; no name, home address or any identifiable piece of information is asked during the screening phase. These changes were made to help free the city from unintentional or implicit bias.

A few years ago we wanted a way to bring the entire community together and celebrate the different cultures, so the Multicultural Festival was born. We believe it will celebrate the fourth yearly celebration tonight and Saturday. The festival is made possible with support from the city and the Mayor’s Inclusion Task Force.

Our website, launched in early 2018, features a drop-down menu on each page allowing translation into one of 24 languages. More and more city publications, including newsletters, are being translated into languages other than English or posted on the website for translation. Every city employee has access to Language Line, a dial-in translation service, and about 30 city employees have volunteered their services as translators.

LAST SATURDAY WAS ONE OF THE BUSIEST days I can remember as events and activities were happening in the city, please email me. Thanks for reading.