**Statement By Chris Hansen On Proposal To Build New Sports Arena**

**Seattle – February 16, 2012 -** Today, Chris Hansen submitted to Mayor Mike McGinn and County Executive Dow Constantine a public-private partnership proposal to develop a new sports arena. The proposed arena would be a publicly owned asset, funded primarily by a large private investment and would be designed to bring both NBA and NHL teams to Seattle.

With regard to this proposal, Chris Hansen said the following:

"This proposal is the product of months of very constructive discussions and I look forward to working with the City and County to bring a new state-of-the-art arena to Seattle. While this is a great opportunity to bring basketball back to the Puget Sound, it would be premature at this time to comment on acquiring a specific franchise.

"Instead we should focus our attention on building a world-class arena, as well as the kind of community support that would attract NBA and NHL teams to our city.

"If we are able to reach an agreement with the City and County, we plan to open discussions with the NBA. We will comment on progress in those talks when it is appropriate to do so.

"I would like to thank Mayor McGinn, County Executive Constantine and their respective staffs for the hard work and cooperation that helped us put this proposal together.

"I would also like to personally thank the community for the recent outpouring of support and encouragement. If you believe in what we are trying to do, the time has come to stand up and be heard. Go Sonics!"

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