

79 - 1194

MOTION NO. 0004494

1
2 A MOTION relating to the County's 1980
3 budget; requesting the Executive to include
4 adequate funds in the District Court's
5 budget and take the necessary administrative
6 actions to establish a warrant service unit.

7 WHEREAS, it has been recently reported that as many as
8 fourteen thousand warrants for arrest, issued by the District
9 Courts, have not been served by the Department of Public Safety,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, these warrants for arrest have been issued against
12 individuals who have failed to pay a fine or appear regarding a
13 past issued citation, largely traffic violations, and

14 WHEREAS, it has been estimated that lost revenue for
15 failure to serve warrants is approximately three million dollars,
16 and

17 WHEREAS, it has been conservatively estimated that lost
18 revenue to King County is in excess of one million dollars, and

19 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety has been unable to
20 serve these warrants because of manpower shortages and higher
21 priorities of service for which the Sheriff is legally bound to
22 perform, and

23 WHEREAS, the failure to serve these warrants is inequitable
24 in that a citizen paying a fine or posting bail, which results in
25 the support of general government, is also subsidizing those who
26 do not pay by virtue of the current situation, and

27 WHEREAS, to require the Department of Public Safety to serve
28 these warrants as expeditiously as possible would result in
29 additional uniformed personnel being transferred from higher
30 priority functions of basic law enforcement, and

31 WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has implemented a warrant
32 service unit under the Municipal Court charged with serving
33 warrants for citations issued by the Seattle Police Department,
34 and

35 WHEREAS, the City's warrant service unit operates under the

1 court, bound by procedures developed in concert with the Police
2 Department, which restricts their activities to that of serving
3 warrants and not acting as law enforcement officers, and

4 WHEREAS, the Municipal Court's warrant service unit served
5 fifty-four thousand warrants in 1978, with the value of such
6 warrants estimated at four million six hundred thousand dollars,
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the budget of the warrant service unit in the City
9 of Seattle for 1979 is \$339,536, including sixteen warrant
10 servers, clerk, manager, and support costs, and

11 WHEREAS, the County Executive, through the Sheriff-Director
12 of the Department of Public Safety, is authorized under RCW
13 36.38.020 to issue special commissions as deputies to individual
14 persons for the performance of specific law enforcement duties,
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the District Court Administrator has determined
17 that, based on proper authorization, a warrant service unit could
18 be implemented in King County at a projected 1980 cost not to
19 exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars, to include eight
20 warrant servers, a clerk, and support costs, including initial
21 telephone installation, and

22 WHEREAS, it is clearly apparent that the costs associated
23 with such a unit in King County would more than be offset by
24 increased revenue to the County, and

25 WHEREAS, the implementation of such a unit in the District
26 Courts, under the supervision of the District Court Administrator,
27 will not only result in increased revenue to the County, but also
28 experience leading to the possible absorption of other service
29 functions, thereby allowing the transfer of commissioned officers
30 in the Department of Public Safety to other appropriate law
31 enforcement activities,
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

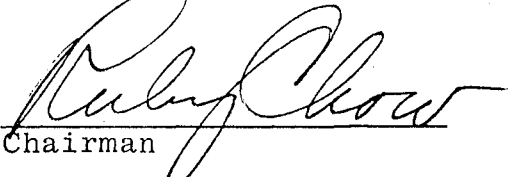
The Executive is requested to:

1. Include adequate funds in the District Court's budget for 1980 to implement a warrant service unit, and

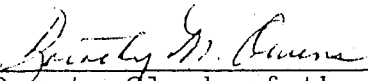
2. Take the appropriate administrative and legal actions necessary for the unit to begin operation effective January 1, 1980.

PASSED this 17th day of September, 19 .

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chairman

ATTEST:


Deputy Clerk of the Council