

November 4, 1991  
SS/jm youth.mot

Sullivan  
Pullen  
Introduced by: Gruger

Proposed No.: 91-837

MOTION NO. 8448

A MOTION requesting the Executive to explore strategies to help youth avoid late night dangers.

WHEREAS, the safety, well-being, and future of youth in King County are being threatened by increasing rates of serious and violent crime; dependence on alcohol or other drugs; sexually transmitted diseases; criminal gang activity; homelessness; truancy; dropping out of school or running away from home; abuse of a physical, sexual, or emotional nature; and neglect; and

WHEREAS, King County desires to support and reinforce the role of parents in raising their children and in providing for their safety, welfare, and education; and

WHEREAS, one way King County can help parents is to provide positive tools to protect children from late night dangers on the street; and

WHEREAS, some children who are spending substantial time on the streets late at night are seeking to escape the stress of a dysfunctional home environment, and King County should place emphasis on responding to the immediate safety concerns of such vulnerable children;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. In the interests of achieving a positive and constructive approach to the late night dangers confronting youth, the county executive is requested to work with the Human Services Roundtable and private non-profit service providers to explore the feasibility of the following program strategies:

1. Funding a sixth King County youth shelter.
2. Working with the King County library system to expand the hours of operation and programs which appeal to youth.

1           3. Working with the local media to produce a series of  
2 public service announcements to warn parents of the late night  
3 dangers to their children and to identify where families can  
4 seek help and advice.

5           4. Establishing a pilot program to provide a "safe ride  
6 home" for youth from specific places or events which youth  
7 usually attend.

8           5. Establishing a Teen Crisis Counseling Hotline, as a  
9 part of an existing program or as a new program, staffed by  
10 properly trained volunteers who can give immediate advice and  
11 counseling and referral information.

12           6. Expanding the youth-at-risk programs sponsored by  
13 the Natural Resources and Parks Division and/or establishing  
14 other programs sponsored by other county agencies.

15           B. By July 1, 1992, the County executive is  
16 requested to submit to the Council a report evaluating these  
17 and any other strategies, along with a plan for implementing  
18 recommended strategies. It is expected that the cost of  
19 implementing any recommended strategies will be minimized by  
20 prudent use of existing services and resources, by coordination  
21 among existing programs, and by the use of volunteers.

22           PASSED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1991.

23           KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
24           KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

25           Lois North  
26           Chair

27           ATTEST:

28           Gerald A. Peterson  
29           Clerk of the Council



King County Executive  
TIM HILL

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CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

December 9, 1991

The Honorable Lois North, Chair  
King County Council  
Room 402  
C O U R T H O U S E

RE: Motion No. 8448

Dear Councilmember North:

I have reviewed Motion No. 8448 asking me to explore strategies to help youth avoid late night dangers, which was passed by the Council on November 4, 1991. I would certainly agree that the safety, well-being, and future of youth in King County are being threatened by increasing rates of serious and violent crime; dependence on alcohol or other drugs; sexually transmitted diseases; criminal gang activity; homelessness; truancy; dropping out of school or running away from home; abuse of a physical, sexual, or emotional nature, and neglect. It was for these very reasons that I appointed a 29-member Children and Families Task Force in the spring of 1991. I challenged them to review these and other issues and to develop a strategy for addressing them.

They have issued a report, entitled "Partnerships for the Future: A Vision for King County's Children and Families". The Council responded to the recommendations in that report by adopting Motion No. 8459 on November 25. The Council noted in that motion that the 1990 evaluation of the prevention and early intervention programs established pursuant to Motion No. 7204 indicated "...the overall system of services for children and families at-risk remained fragmented and difficult for individuals, families, and the general public to understand and use effectively...". The Council also pointed out that "...there is a growing recognition that meaningful anti-crime programs have to focus on promoting healthy families and communities as well as improvements to the criminal justice system...". Finally, the Council affirmed its intent to establish a King County Children and Families Commission and to adopt a King County Children, Youth and Families Policy Plan. The Plan, among other things is to emphasize "the development of family support initiatives, generated by community groups and building upon the strengths and abilities of local families, communities, and schools".

Thus, rather than responding to the specific program strategies outlined in Motion No. 8448 by July 1, 1992, it is my intent to refer the Motion to the Children and Families Commission for their review in developing the proposed implementation plan. I believe this will result in viewing these strategies

