

December 2, 1993  
SENTENCING.MOT/PB

Introduced by: PAUL BARDEN

Proposed No.: 93-938

MOTION NO. 9191

1  
2 A MOTION requesting the Executive to  
3 forward to the Council an appropriation  
4 ordinance for funding a feasibility study  
5 for recommending to the State Legislature  
6 the adoption of uniform misdemeanor  
7 sentencing guidelines for municipal and  
8 district courts in King County.

9 WHEREAS, an underlying purpose of the criminal justice  
10 system is insuring that justice is apportioned fairly and  
11 equally to all persons convicted of committing crimes; and

12 WHEREAS, King County has a strong interest in insuring  
13 that all persons convicted of offenses that are similar or the  
14 same receive sentences that are generally similar or are within  
15 a determined range; and

16 WHEREAS, the administration of justice is made unduly  
17 complex by disparities in the sentences meted out by courts of  
18 limited jurisdiction to misdemeanants; and

19 WHEREAS, the State of Washington has recognized the  
20 validity of the principle of convicted persons receiving  
21 sentences within determined standard ranges for their specific  
22 offenses through the adoption of sentencing guidelines in the  
23 superior courts; and

24 WHEREAS, the lack of sentencing guidelines to be used by  
25 courts of limited jurisdiction may result in justice being  
26 dispensed unequally; and

27 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of all affected King  
28 County criminal justice agencies and the general public to have  
29 a clearer understanding of the nature, philosophy and  
30 implications of present sentencing philosophy; and

31 WHEREAS, a study of the issue is expected to benefit the  
32 King County criminal justice system; and

33 WHEREAS, the need to examine and further understand  
34 this issue requires the dedication of adequate resources to  
35 that effort;


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

1           The King County executive is requested to forward to the  
2 Council no later than January 31, 1994 an appropriations  
3 ordinance for at least one temporary full-time equivalent whose  
4 purpose shall be the compilation and analysis of existing  
5 information throughout all King County jurisdictions on the  
6 nature of sentencing of misdemeanants in courts of limited  
7 jurisdiction. The purpose of this analysis shall be an  
8 understanding of disparities in the present system of  
9 sentencing misdemeanants and a recommendation on the nature of  
10 reforms to be proposed to the State of Washington.

11           PASSED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1993

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


  
Chair

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ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Council

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Attachments:

COUNCIL AMENDED 12/20/93