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Fimia, Miller,
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Reichbauer,
Gossett, Pullen,
Derdowski, Sims,
Phillips, Laing

July 21, 1994
DVMOTION.DOC (SS)

Introduced By:

Proposed No.:

94 - 456

MOTION NO. 9342

A MOTION establishing domestic violence
as a 1995 budget priority and providing
for immediate action on certain
initiatives.

WHEREAS, nearly 4 million incidents of domestic violence
are reported each year in the United States and approximately
1,400 women are killed each year by their husbands or
boyfriends, and

WHEREAS, every year an estimated 34,000 children in King
County witness an act of domestic violence involving one or
more of their parents, and

WHEREAS, approximately 10,000 misdemeanor cases of
domestic violence were filed last year in district and
municipal courts in King County, and

WHEREAS, in King County the number of felony domestic
violence criminal cases doubled in just one year, from 306
cases in 1992 to 620 cases in 1993, and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a social and legal problem
of such enormity that it has become a national epidemic, and

WHEREAS, in 1988, King County approved a domestic
violence comprehensive plan, calling for improved
coordination of community and law enforcement agencies, and

WHEREAS, in September, 1990, the Human Services
Roundtable, a coalition of elected and appointed officials

1 from King County, the City of Seattle, suburban cities and
2 United Way, approved a five-year action plan to build and
3 maintain a regional system of community response to domestic
4 violence, and

5 WHEREAS, as a result of these plans, this region began
6 successfully addressing the problem of domestic violence in a
7 coordinated manner, and

8 WHEREAS, critical to this success were the decisions by
9 King County and a number of cities in King County to allocate
10 to the domestic violence system 11 percent of new criminal
11 justice revenues that were made available to local
12 governments in 1991, and

13 WHEREAS, these new revenues were used to fund legal
14 advocates in each of the nine divisions of King County
15 District Court and community advocates in eight community
16 agencies to assist victims of domestic violence through
17 criminal proceedings, help them obtain court orders of
18 protection, assist them with long-term safety planning and
19 provide referrals to needed services such as child care,
20 income support and emergency housing, and

21 WHEREAS, King County is now recognized as a national
22 leader in the development of a coordinated system of response
23 for victims of domestic violence involved in misdemeanor
24 cases prosecuted in the county district courts, and

25 WHEREAS, this coordinated system of response is lacking
26 for felony cases in King County Superior Court, and

27 WHEREAS, the county council's Law, Justice and Human
28 Services Committee recently held a special hearing on
29 domestic violence and sexual assault as part of its Safe
30 Communities initiative, and

1 WHEREAS, on July 15, 1994, the county council held a
2 special hearing on domestic violence and heard a number of
3 specific recommendations from service providers and key
4 players in the criminal justice system about how to further
5 improve our response to domestic violence, including
6 addressing the specific needs of children affected by
7 domestic violence, and

8 WHEREAS, in December, 1993, the Human Services
9 Roundtable completed a regional plan for children affected by
10 domestic violence, and

11 WHEREAS, although significant progress had been made to
12 improve our regional response to domestic violence, much more
13 remains to be done, and

14 WHEREAS, it is critical that the county maintain in the
15 1995 budget existing funding devoted to domestic violence to
16 ensure that we do not lose momentum in our efforts to keep
17 victims and their families safe and hold their batterers
18 accountable for their violence, and

19 WHEREAS, the county council desires to respond
20 immediately to the critical needs to address the prosecution
21 of felony domestic violence offenders and provide support to
22 their victims, provide services to children affected by
23 domestic violence, increase our capacity to provide treatment
24 services for batterers, and provide additional transitional
25 housing for domestic violence victims and their families, and

26 WHEREAS, the county council recognizes there is a need
27 to update the Human Services Roundtable's 1990 Regional
28 Domestic Violence Plan;

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

1 A. The county council hereby establishes domestic
2 violence as a 1995 budget priority and requests the county
3 executive, in developing the 1995 proposed budget, to
4 maintain funding for existing resources devoted to domestic
5 violence.

6 B. The county council hereby states its intent to
7 include, subject to available funds, funding in the 1994
8 budget corrections ordinance for two deputy prosecuting
9 attorneys and two legal advocates in the Prosecuting
10 Attorney's Office to respond to increasing felony workload
11 related to domestic violence and to provide necessary support
12 for victims of domestic violence involved in prosecution in
13 King County Superior Court.

14 C. The county council hereby requests the county
15 executive, in consultation with service providers and others
16 as appropriate, to develop and submit to the council within
17 60 days of the effective date of this motion proposed
18 legislation for 1994 funding for the following:

- 19 1. Services for children affected by domestic
20 violence;
- 21 2. Treatment services for batterers; and
- 22 3. Transitional housing for domestic violence victims
23 and their families.

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D. The county council further requests the county executive to develop and submit to the council within 60 days of the effective date of this motion a plan for updating the Human Service Roundtable's 1990 Regional Plan for Domestic Violence. The update should involve service providers and existing regional planning groups such as the Regional Policy Committee, the Roundtable and the Regional Law, Safety and Justice Committee.

PASSED this 25th day of July, 1994.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Passed by a vote of 11-0.

Kent Pullen
Chair

ATTEST:

Gerald G. Peterson
Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None