

March 6, 1995

Introduced By:

Maggi Fimia
Louise Miller

94-759:Clerk

Proposed No.:

94-759

MOTION NO. **9493**

A MOTION authorizing the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Superior Court Security Fund for the purpose of funding consultants to provide architectural advice with respect to entrance screening and replacement of the courthouse alarm system, and declaring the policy of King County that to protect court areas it is necessary to exclude weapons from the building, except those carried by law enforcement personnel, and to screen for weapons at courtrooms and entrances to the King County Courthouse.

WHEREAS, King County has recognized the need to achieve the goal of safety basic to the process of justice, and

WHEREAS, security is a common concern to all courts, court related agencies, and other departments and agencies occupying the courthouse, and

WHEREAS, in the 1991 budget, the King County Council appropriated \$315,000 in CIP Project 666527 for the purpose of improving courthouse security, and

WHEREAS, per a 1991 budget proviso, no funds shall be expended on the Superior Court Security Project until the council approves a scope of work for the project, and

WHEREAS, the King County Superior Court has found that court areas can be protected only by screening at entrances to the courthouse, and that the court must have architectural advice in order to plan a sensible screening program to avoid delays at entrances and exits, and

WHEREAS, the courthouse alarm system has never worked reliably and needs to be replaced;

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

The scope of work contained in Attachment A is approved to spend up to \$50,000 from the Superior Court Security Fund for consultant studies.

1 BE IT FURTHER MOVED that the council declares that, consistent with the
2 attached September 22, 1994 and March 2, 1995 Resolutions of the Judges of the King
3 County Superior Court, it is the policy of King County that to protect court areas it is
4 necessary to exclude weapons from the building, except those carried by law enforcement
5 personnel, and to screen for weapons at courtrooms and entrances to the King County
6 Courthouse.

7 PASSED by a vote of 10 to 0 this 6th day of March
8 1995.

9 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
10 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

11 Kent Pullen
12 Chair

13 ATTEST:

14 Gerald A. Polun
15 Clerk of the Council

16 Attachments: A - Scope of Work
17 Resolutions dated 9/22/94 and 3/2/95

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**SUPERIOR COURT SECURITY
FUND PROJECT**

Scope of Work

The Court intends to contract with security consultants to:

1. Prepare a functional system plan in conjunction with representatives of the Superior Court and Department of Public Safety court security unit which provides options and recommendations for improvements to the duress alarm system, including stand-alone electronic systems, and systems which combine electronic features with security dispatch staff.
2. Identify potential vendor systems that meet the system plan and arrange for demonstrations of those systems.
3. Evaluate vendor systems, technical materials, project references, proposed installer and service agent qualifications.
4. Survey existing building wiring and provide recommendations regarding the use of existing or new wire, or cable for alarm system use.
5. Submit a report to the court on items 1 through 4 above, including estimated project costs.
6. Prepare bid documents for systems installation.
7. Evaluate bid proposals and assist in negotiations.
8. Review drawings and bid submittal, and provide periodic inspections to observe installation quality.
9. Participate in system acceptance testing, prepare remedial action reports (punch lists), and recommend for or against system acceptance.
10. Provide professional advice from persons with expertise in security and building remodeling which explores options and make recommendations for a sensible screening program that meets the requirements of state law contained in RCW 9.41.300 and additional security measures such as video cameras, electronic card readers and other items as might be needed throughout the King County Courthouse to enhance security.

Courthouse Weapons Prohibition**Resolution of the Judges of King County Superior Court
Per RCW 9.41.300**

RCW 9.41.300 prohibits weapons from areas used to conduct court business, waiting areas and adjacent corridors. The statute as amended in 1993 provides that "the restricted areas do not include common areas of ingress and egress to the building that is used in connection with court proceedings, when it is possible to protect court areas without restricting ingress and egress to the building."

The King County Courthouse has seven internal stairways: one at the end of each of the four wings, and three off the hallways that connect the elevator lobbies to the wings. Court related facilities are located on twelve ends of eight of the eleven floors in the building. The elevators and stairways are used extensively to get between floors to conduct court business. Jurors are escorted from the jury assembly room and between jury rooms and courtrooms, both on elevators and on the stairways to courtrooms; witnesses, victims and parties must use the elevators or stairways to come and leave court; to get to the twenty-one courtrooms on the west wings, in-custody defendants are escorted from the freight elevators through the main elevator lobbies to courtrooms; the stairways at the end of each wing are used to move from floor to floor.

Given this free flow of persons between floors, the extensive use of stairways, and the location of the elevator lobbies which connect the east half of the building to the west, weapons cannot be effectively prohibited from courtrooms, other areas used to conduct court business, and adjacent corridors and waiting areas, without banning weapons from the entire building. If the wings were screened, weapons could still be brought into court areas by use of the wing stairways from other floors where weapons are not prohibited. Even if weapons could be banned effectively from the wings, jurors, witnesses, victims, defendants, court related personnel, and persons on court business would be required to pass through the unscreened lobbies on each floor and use unscreened elevators or stairways.

Therefore, the court hereby determines that it is not possible to protect court related areas in the King County Courthouse (Floors 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 (Northeast wing and elevator lobby)) without prohibiting weapons from the entire building. Accordingly, the court directs that the Presiding Judge issue an order prohibiting weapons from the entire building, except for weapons carried by law enforcement officers.

Adopted unanimously, September 22, 1994.

RESOLUTION OF KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

2 March 1995

In recognition of the court's responsibility to provide a safe courthouse for the resolution of disputes and to provide a safe place for the public as well as staff, parties, witnesses, jurors, and other court participants, and in view of the threat to all court participants posed by weapons of all varieties,

The King County Superior Court resolves:

1. The court will conduct court operations only so long as all persons entering the courthouse are subject to screening of their persons and packages at the entry to buildings housing court facilities, and weapons are excluded except for authorized law enforcement personnel.
2. Further, the judges unanimously direct the presiding judge to cease court operation at any time the Presiding Judge determines that court security measures are not adequate to protect the public and court staff.

1 March 3, 1995

Introduced by:

2 GLJM SAFETY1.DOC

Proposed No.: **95 - 180**

3 **ORDINANCE NO. 11702**

4 AN ORDINANCE making an appropriation to various
5 agencies for the purpose of enhancing courthouse security,
6 and amending Ordinance 11578, Sections 16, 30, 38, and
7 102, as amended, and declaring an emergency.

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9 STATEMENT OF INTENT:

- 10 1. Due to the current and emergent situation, the provision of security to the courts
11 located within the King County Courthouse requires that the executive, in
12 conjunction with the superior court, temporarily screen all entrances to the
13 Courthouse for weapons until a permanent policy, which addresses the legal
14 issues of weapons screening, is adopted by council.
- 15 2. The executive will continue to gather data and perform an analysis of the
16 permanent security needs of the Courthouse, district court, and other essential
17 county facilities, with the goal of providing the safest, most cost effective
18 security program.

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20 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

21 SECTION 1. There is hereby approved and adopted an appropriation to various
22 agencies for the purpose of enhancing courthouse security.

23 SECTION 2. Ordinance No. 11578, Section 16, as amended, is hereby amended
24 by adding thereto and inserting therein the following:

25 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - From the Current Expense Fund there is
26 hereby appropriated to:

27 Department of Public Safety \$296,993

28 SECTION 3. Ordinance No. 11578, Section 30, as amended, is hereby amended
29 by adding thereto and inserting therein the following:

30 SUPERIOR COURT - From the Current Expense Fund there is hereby appropriated
31 to:

32 Superior Court \$115,007

33 SECTION 4. Ordinance No. 11578, Section 38, as amended, is hereby amended
34 by adding thereto and inserting therein the following:

35 SPECIAL PROGRAMS - EXECUTIVE CONTINGENCY - From the Current
36 Expense Fund there is hereby disappropriated to:

37 Special Programs - Executive Contingency \$(412,000)

38 SECTION 5. Ordinance No. 11578, Section 102, as amended, is hereby amended
39 by adding thereto and inserting therein the following:

40 DCFM - INTERNAL SERVICE FUND - From the Internal Service Fund there is
41 hereby appropriated to:

42 DCFM - Internal Service Fund \$44,550

43 SECTION 6. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency
44 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,
45 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public
46 institutions.

47 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 6th day of

48 March, 1995.

49 PASSED by a vote of 10 to 0 this 6th day of March,
50 1995.

51 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
52 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kent Pullen
Chair

53 ATTEST:

54 Gerald A. Peterson
55 Clerk of the Council

56 APPROVED this 8th day of March, 1995.

57 Sam Lader
King County Executive