

April 9, 1997

Introduced By:

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Proposed No.:

97-211

MOTION NO. **10186**

A MOTION establishing policies and requesting the Executive to provide county resources to assist non-profit organizations in the storage, transportation, management, and overall distribution of food to citizens in need.

WHEREAS, in an effort to encourage the donation of food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy individuals, Congress passed and the President signed the "Good Samaritan Food Donation Act" on October 1, 1996, requiring states to adopt legislation to protect those who donate food in good faith from civil or criminal liability should such donated food later cause harm to recipients, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 13.8 billion pounds of food are wasted and disposed of in landfills each year in the United States, enough to feed 49 million people, and

WHEREAS, much of the food and grocery products donated by restaurants and grocery stores either spoil or are disposed of before they can be delivered to the appropriate

1 distribution centers because of logistical problems, including but not limited to, lack of
2 transportation, lack of storage space, and a lack of volunteers, and

3 WHEREAS, in the fiscal year from July 1995 through June 1996, more than
4 1,300,000 individuals received help from neighborhood food banks in Washington, and

5 WHEREAS, one not-for-profit community food bank, Food Lifeline, currently
6 distributes the equivalent of about 800,000 meals every month within King County, and

7 WHEREAS, Northwest Harvest, another not-for-profit community outreach
8 program providing food to more than 280 hunger programs in King County and the State
9 of Washington, distributed over 11 million pounds of food to hunger programs in 1996,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, many people depend on charitable food distribution programs for
12 sustenance, including: children, senior citizens on fixed incomes, physically or mentally
13 disabled individuals, refugees, homeless persons, students, and the working poor, and

14 WHEREAS, more than half a million Washington State men, women and children
15 live below the poverty level, and

16 WHEREAS, one out of every seven children in Washington lives below the official
17 poverty line and is hungry, or at risk of being hungry, and

18 WHEREAS, a survey conducted in 1991 indicated that approximately 90,000
19 children under the age of 12 in Washington experienced hunger to the degree that health
20 and school performance were affected, and

21 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan King County Council recognizes that the success of
22 charitable food distribution programs and food banks depends upon sustained donations of
23 food, money and volunteer time;

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

The Metropolitan King County Council supports the aggressive implementation of policies to provide county government resources for the storage, transportation, management, and overall distribution of food to those in need. The Council intends for these policies to be implemented within available funds and programs, but recognizes that there are certain start up costs inherent with researching and implementing new policies. The Council further intends for these policies to be developed and implemented utilizing information provided by charitable non-profit food distribution programs, including but not limited to a comprehensive study being conducted by Food Lifeline examining the resources, infrastructure, and critical needs of such programs in relation to their capacity to provide services. To that end, the Executive may expend, if necessary, up to \$25,000 from the Current Expense Fund Balance or the newly created Current Expense Opportunity Fund to establish and promulgate policies and practices which:

1. Enable and encourage county vehicles to be used for the transportation and distribution of food items as a part of a charitable food distribution program, when those vehicles are not otherwise in use by county employees. The Executive is specifically encouraged to determine whether the county has any surplus vehicles which could be loaned or donated to established non-profit food banks in King County. A report on the potential benefits and legal issues shall be submitted to the Council on or before July 1, 1997.
2. Enable and encourage county facilities to be used for the storage of food items as a part of a charitable food distribution program, when those facilities are not

1 essential for other county programs. A report on the potential benefits and legal
2 issues shall be submitted to the Council on or before July 1, 1997.

3 3. Provide non-profit organizations with access to surplus county computer
4 equipment or computer services necessary to assist with the overall
5 management of charitable food distribution programs, including development of
6 an Internet resource page to serve as a clearinghouse for accepting donated food
7 and referring volunteers to local non-profit food banks. A report on the
8 potential benefits and legal issues shall be submitted to the Council on or before
9 July 1, 1997.

10 4. Devise work rules which authorize and encourage county employees to use one
11 accrued day of sick leave per year to volunteer for a non-profit organization,
12 especially to assist with food distribution efforts. A report describing how this
13 practice can be implemented, including an analysis of potential legal and work
14 rule issues shall be submitted to the Council on or before July 1, 1997.

15 5. Allow non-profit organizations which operate charitable food distribution
16 programs a waiver of their solid waste disposal fees when they are disposing of
17 spoiled food. A report on the potential benefits, legal issues and fiscal impacts
18 shall be submitted to the Council on or before July 1, 1997.

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6. As a component of the implementation of such policies, provide charitable non-profit food distribution programs an inventory of those vehicles, facilities, equipment, and services available to them as provided for in this motion and in future programs. A report describing how this practice can be implemented, including an analysis of potential benefits and legal issues shall be submitted to the Council on or before July 1, 1997.

PASSED by a vote of 12 to 0 this 14th day of April,
1997.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jane Hague
Chair

ATTEST:

Paul Mason
Clerk of the Council

Attachments: