



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 17, 2002

Motion 11534

Proposed No. 2002-0427.1

Sponsors Phillips and Hague

1 A MOTION requesting the King County executive to
2 establish a tax-forfeited property renovation program and
3 evaluate the possibility of utilizing the work crew program
4 for property cleanup and renovation.

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7 WHEREAS, King County's total 2002 budget of \$2.9 billion is supported by a
8 variety of revenues, and

9 WHEREAS, most of these revenues - \$2.4 billion of the \$2.9 billion total – are
10 expressly restricted by state law to the purposes for which they are collected, and

11 WHEREAS, the remaining revenues of \$500 million, which constitute the
12 county's current expense (CX) fund, are the only funds available to fund many additional
13 county services, and

14 WHEREAS, King County reduced the CX fund budget by \$41 million for 2002,
15 and faces continuing current expense fund deficits, on the order of \$50 million for 2003,
16 with projected additional reductions of \$30 million in 2004 and another \$30 million in
17 2005, for a total of \$151 million over four years

18 WHEREAS, the fiscal shortfall is the result of declining revenue growth and
19 increasing governmental expenses, and

20 WHEREAS, King County is aggressively reviewing CX expenditures for
21 reductions and has already closed many county parks, and

22 WHEREAS, the county needs to be just as aggressive in its review of potential
23 revenue sources, and

24 WHEREAS, King County Treasury Operations staff will typically put about one
25 hundred tax-forfeited properties up for sale each year, and

26 WHEREAS, in 1997, Hennepin county in Minnesota has implemented a
27 successful tax-forfeited property renovation program that has generated in excess of \$1
28 million in profit, and

29 WHEREAS, the Hennepin county program has resulted in more owner
30 occupation of homes than previously experienced, and

31 WHEREAS, the Hennepin county program has encouraged the use of local
32 women and minority owned small businesses for renovation work, and

33 WHEREAS, the Hennepin county program is currently trialing the use of work
34 crew labor to assist in renovation work, and

35 WHEREAS, the council adopted Motion 11491 on July 29, 2002, that in part
36 requested the courts, prosecutor, sheriff and all other agencies involved in the criminal
37 justice system within King County to work together to identify efficiencies and possible
38 reductions, and

39 WHEREAS, the Adult Justice Operational Master Plan has recommended the use
40 of work crews as an alternative to secure detention, and

41 WHEREAS, the use of work crews has shown a positive effect on the reduction
42 of recidivism at a reduced cost as compared to secure detention, and

43 WHEREAS, in a pilot program, the district court has identified the efficacy of
44 expanding offender work crews as a sanction and a way for offenders to reduce their
45 fines. Additionally, the court identified that their existing pilot work crews provided
46 needed services to the community that maintain facilities and saved taxpayer dollars, and

47 WHEREAS, the district court has identified hundreds of offenders with driving
48 offenses that are currently using valuable court and jail time that would otherwise be
49 eligible for work crew, and

50 WHEREAS, if successful, the use of work crew labor in this program could save
51 taxpayer dollars in the criminal justice system and also generate increased revenue for the
52 CX fund from improved tax forfeited property sales;

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

54 The executive is requested to establish a tax-forfeited property renovation
55 program and evaluate the possibility of utilizing the work crew program for property
56 clean-up and renovation. Any profit from the implementation of the program shall be
57 allocated as follows:

58 Eighty percent current expense (CX) fund; and

59 Twenty percent affordable housing efforts.

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60 The executive is further requested to transmit any required legislation and a program plan
61 as part of the 2003 executive proposed budget.

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Motion 11534 was introduced on 9/3/2002 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/16/2002, by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Ms. Patterson
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None