



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 18, 2005

Motion 12210

Proposed No. 2005-0406.1

Sponsors Constantine

1 A MOTION endorsing the White Center Community
2 Enhancement Initiative.

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4

5 WHEREAS, White Center is a 3.4-square-mile community west of State Route
6 509 between the city of Seattle and the city of Burien in the unincorporated area of North
7 Highline, and

8 WHEREAS, White Center is a community of over twenty thousand residents,
9 representing seventy-seven nationalities and speaking fifty-nine languages, that has come
10 together to make a difference for future generations, and

11 WHEREAS, the community expressed through the adopted White Center
12 Community Action Plan (Ordinance 11568) that "the mixture of cultural communities
13 and economic groups that make up White Center contribute to its unique character and is
14 reflected in businesses, community organizations, public art, and local celebrations," and

15 WHEREAS, King County joins the community in celebrating the ethnic diversity
16 and economic integration of White Center, and values its role as a gateway to the region,
17 as well as a home and destination, and

18 WHEREAS, the community in collaboration with the King County Housing
19 Authority and King County made a great advancement towards achieving greater
20 economic integration by pursuing and winning a Hope VI grant to finance the
21 Greenbridge development, which will replace five hundred sixty-nine units of severely
22 distressed public housing with a new nine hundred to one thousand one hundred-unit
23 mixed-income community, and

24 WHEREAS, King County invested over ten million dollars in Greenbridge, and

25 WHEREAS, in the state of the county address, Executive Sims committed to
26 "continue to play a leadership role in creating healthy neighborhoods that nurture and
27 enrich our citizens' lives," and

28 WHEREAS, the executive is dedicated to addressing the unique conditions of
29 White Center that have challenged its development as a healthy neighborhood, including:

30 A. White Center is primarily a low-income community with a large immigrant
31 and refugee population, the two poorest census tracts in King County and the image of a
32 "broken window" community;

33 B. Youth in White Center are troubled by a very high drop out rate limited
34 economic resources and a constant gang presence;

35 C. According to a 2003 survey conducted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation,
36 seventy-five percent of King County residents use a computer and access the web at
37 home, while only sixty percent of White Center respondents reported at-home use of
38 these resources;

39 D. King County's current fiscal crisis has limited the resources available to
40 provide urban local services throughout King County, including in the North Highline
41 communities and White Center; and

42 E. North Highline is the largest, unclaimed unincorporated urban area in King
43 County and due to the county's current fiscal crisis has experienced significant cuts in
44 programs and service levels in the last few years, similar to unincorporated urban areas
45 countywide, and

46 WHEREAS, the King County annexation initiative, launched in 2004, is a
47 countywide effort to promote annexation and incorporation of the remaining urban
48 unincorporated areas of King County, with one of the primary goals being to preserve the
49 quality of local services to urban communities by transferring governance responsibilities
50 to cities, which have more revenue options available for funding urban local services than
51 does the county, and

52 WHEREAS, the cities of Burien and Seattle have expressed an interest in
53 annexing all or portions of North Highline, which includes the White Center community,
54 and

55 WHEREAS, the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council is studying the
56 feasibility of forming a new city through an incorporation of the North Highline
57 communities, and

58 WHEREAS, the higher service need and comparatively low overall tax base of
59 North Highline, including White Center, are seen as barriers to annexation and
60 incorporation, and

61 WHEREAS, King County, through the annexation initiative, is committed to
62 empowering residents in the North Highline community, including White Center, to
63 select a local governance solution that accommodates the needs and desires of the
64 community, and

65 WHEREAS, the White Center Community Enhancement Initiative is designed to
66 give residents more local governance options by promoting economic development
67 activities that will reduce the financial gap between revenues and costs and thereby make
68 the community more attractive for annexation or incorporation, and

69 WHEREAS, the White Center Community Enhancement Initiative is a time-
70 limited program whose success and continuation, and the continuation of programs it
71 supports, are contingent upon transfer of local services to a city through annexation or
72 incorporation;

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

74 The following policies and actions comprising the White Center Community
75 Enhancement Initiative are hereby endorsed:

76 A. King County shall use county resources and public-private partnerships to
77 support community organizations and residents in their efforts to create a healthy White
78 Center;

79 B. To this end, King County shall work with existing community groups
80 including, but not limited to, the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, the White
81 Center Community Development Association, the White Center Chamber of Commerce,
82 the Highline School District, the King County Housing Authority, the Partners and
83 Deputies Group, Making Connections and the general public to revisit and refine the

84 community's vision for White Center, establish community-wide priorities, and develop a
85 multifaceted funding strategy that refocuses and better coordinates county, nonprofit and
86 private investment to achieve identified goals for economic and community development
87 by July 31, 2006;

88 C. King County strongly supports comprehensive community transformation
89 efforts that create livable neighborhoods where people across the economic spectrum will
90 choose to live and stay and that provide an avenue for residents to connect to the
91 multitude of services and economic opportunities this region provides, a policy that is in
92 perfect alignment with the Greenbridge HOPE VI investment;

93 D. King County shall use county resources and public-private partnerships to
94 spur economic development, enhance parks and open spaces, provide community
95 services and housing opportunities and accelerate annexation or incorporation with the
96 ultimate goal of supporting a vibrant, mixed-income, diverse community in White Center
97 and the North Highline communities;

98 E King County will leverage recent investments in new sidewalks along 16th
99 Ave SW between 100th and Roxbury to encourage local businesses to participate in a
100 Façade Improvement Program and Road Improvement Districts, which are programs that
101 will enliven community streetscapes, enhance the pedestrian experience and make the
102 shopping district more appealing, and collaborate with community organizations to
103 address litter and illegal dumping concerns;

104 F. King County shall modify land use and zoning changes to promote the
105 development of underutilized parcels, similar to actions taken in 2005 Amendments to
106 the King County Comprehensive Plan 2004, and shall evaluate opportunities to enhance

107 or redevelop county-owned properties consistent with economic and community
108 development priorities;

109 G. King County shall encourage private development consistent with zoning and
110 land use policies by promoting architectural designs and building orientations that
111 maximize the development potential of properties and facilitate walking and smart
112 growth;

113 H. King County shall pursue the recommendations of the Land Use,
114 Transportation, Air Quality, and Health ("LUTAGH") study in the White Center
115 community wherever possible, which include: rezoning targeted areas to allow infill
116 duplexes and triplexes to increase residential density; completing the sidewalk and street
117 drainage system; creating an international marketplace and small business incubator or
118 similar pedestrian destination; developing alternative affordable housing options;
119 establishing a strong pedestrian link from the new Greenbridge housing to the business
120 district of White Center, and rezoning underutilized industrial areas to allow for more
121 mixed-used development in the central business core;

122 I. King County shall ensure that the White Center Bog and SW 98th Street serve
123 as a safe and attractive pedestrian connection between the White Center central business
124 district and the Greenbridge development by seeking additional funds from public and
125 private partners;

126 J. King County shall encourage community groups and nonprofit organizations to
127 participate in the Association Development and Operations Partnership ("ADOP"), Urban
128 Reforestation and Habitat Restoration Grant Fund and Natural Resource Stewardship
129 Network grant programs to improve parks and open spaces;

130 K. King County shall in the 2006 budget maintain its eight-million-dollar
131 regional funding investment in human services and continue to dismantle the economic
132 barriers that limit homeownership and educational opportunities through innovative
133 programs and strategic partnerships;

134 L. King County shall complete appropriate impact fee waivers, reducing
135 construction costs by approximately seventy-five thousand six hundred dollars, to
136 facilitate affordable housing development at Greenbridge by the end of 2005;

137 M. King County shall continue to support workforce and business development
138 through the King County jobs initiative, Small Business Development Center and
139 collaborations with the White Center Community Development Association;

140 N. King County shall seek "neighborhood revitalization strategy area"
141 designation from HUD for White Center Central Business District and surrounding
142 neighborhoods in order to provide greater flexibility in the use of federal block grants to
143 support economic development and housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income
144 persons;

145 O. King County shall invest in technology programs and partnerships to ensure
146 youth and families in the White Center community are afforded opportunities to succeed
147 in an information-based society; and

148 P. King County shall evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative over the next six
149 months and provide an assessment of whether the replication of initiative efforts would

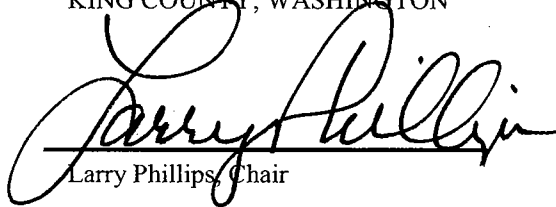
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150 be beneficial in other neighborhoods in North Highline and other unincorporated
151 communities.
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Motion 12210 was introduced on 10/3/2005 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/17/2005, by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Hammond, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 3 - Mr. Pelz, Mr. Gossett and Mr. Irons

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None