



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 5, 2006

Motion 12297

Proposed No. 2006-0241.1

Sponsors Phillips and Patterson

1 A MOTION requesting the county executive to transmit a
2 report on opportunities to improve enforcement of animal
3 cruelty laws in King County.

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5
6 WHEREAS, many animals are much loved and cared for members of King
7 County families, and

8 WHEREAS, animals are vulnerable to abuse and neglect and must be protected,
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the state of Washington granted law enforcement and animal control
11 agencies the power to enforce animal cruelty laws with RCW 16.52.015, and

12 WHEREAS, King County authorized the manager of the animal control authority
13 and his or her authorized animal control officers to enforce animal cruelty laws with
14 K.C.C. 11.04.170, and

15 WHEREAS, it is unlawful to be cruel to animals in King County, under K.C.C.
16 11.04.250, and

17 WHEREAS, on April 11, 2006, the labor, operations and technology committee
18 was briefed on the enforcement of King County animal cruelty laws, and

19 WHEREAS, the number of telephone calls received by King County animal
20 control reporting alleged animal cruelty increased from eight-hundred and fifteen calls in
21 2004 to one thousand and two call in 2005, representing a twenty-three percent increase,
22 and

23 WHEREAS, in 2006 there have been several serious animal cruelty cases reported
24 that resulted in the deaths of family pets in King County, and

25 WHEREAS, animal cruelty investigations are complex and require specialized
26 skills, and

27 WHEREAS, several King County animal control officers investigate animal
28 cruelty investigation in addition to their other duties;

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

30 The county executive is requested to file with the clerk of the council by July 1,
31 2006, twelve copies of a report, for distribution to all councilmembers and the lead staff
32 of the labor, operations and technology committee, or its successor, on the following:

33 A. Make recommendations on how to improve the county's efforts to reduce and
34 eliminate animal cruelty, the investigations of animal cruelty allegations and coordination
35 of resources among animal control and law enforcement;

36 B. Evaluate alternative organizational models for the enforcement of animal
37 cruelty laws and make a recommendation on how King County animal control should be
38 organized for animal cruelty. The evaluation shall include an analysis on the feasibility
39 of designating responsibilities to one or two animal control officers for enforcement of

40 King County animal cruelty laws enforcement. The evaluation shall also include an
41 analysis of how other jurisdictions, including the cities of Houston, San Diego and
42 Detroit, are organized for the enforcement of animal cruelty laws and whether King
43 County should be organized in a similar manner; and

44 C. Improve animal control section policies and procedures for:

45 1. Coordination of animal cruelty enforcement between animal control officers
46 and law enforcement officers;

47 2. Tracking and following-up on animal cruelty cases, particularly repeat
48 offenders; and

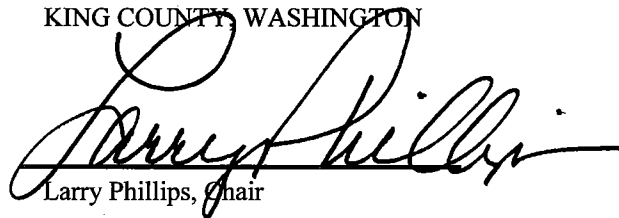
49 3. Accepting reports of alleged animal cruelty cases from private humane
50 societies.

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Motion 12297 was introduced on 5/22/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/5/2006, by the following vote:

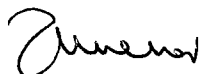
Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Attachments None