



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**October 13, 2009**

**Motion 13087**

**Proposed No.** 2009-0564.2

**Sponsors** Ferguson, Dunn and Phillips

1                   A MOTION declaring county policy regarding access to  
2                   public records.

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4                   WHEREAS, King County has made substantial improvements in recent years in  
5                   its processing of public records requests, and

6                   WHEREAS, King County is committed to further facilitating public records  
7                   requests and improving the county's responsiveness to such requests, and

8                   WHEREAS, the Washington state Auditor observed in a May 2008 report, "When  
9                   entities provide guidance and information to the public for making public records  
10                  request[s] on its Web site, this communicates a culture of openness to the public and  
11                  reinforces the entity's commitment to accountability and transparency," and

12                  WHEREAS, the Washington state Auditor further observed in the same report,  
13                  "The use of information technology can assist entities in being more responsive to  
14                  records requests and demonstrates transparency and accountability. Specifically,  
15                  providing commonly requested public records on Web sites is[,] in our opinion, a best  
16                  practice," and

17           WHEREAS, the Washington state Attorney General testified before the council's  
18 committee of the whole that coordination of public records responses by county agencies  
19 should be considered a best practice but not legally mandatory, and that the size and  
20 complexity of King County government would make it impracticable for the county to  
21 respond to all public records requests as if it were a single agency,

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

23           A. It is county policy that county agencies should:

24           1. Provide on each of their web sites the maximum guidance and information to  
25 the public for making public records requests;

26           2. Provide access to commonly requested nonexempt public records on its  
27 website to the extent feasible and economical; and

28           3. In responding to public records requests:

29           a. notify the requestor in writing that they are responding on their own behalf,  
30 and not on behalf of other county agencies, which should be listed in the notice; and

31           b. if their public records officer believes that other county agencies could have  
32 responsive records, notify the requestor and provide the name, phone number, email  
33 address and office mailing address of the public records officer of each of those other  
34 agencies.

35           B. The policies in this motion are intended as guidance for best practices for  
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37 county agencies, and shall not be interpreted to impose any legal obligation on agencies  
38 beyond those imposed by chapter 42.56 RCW and K.C.C. chapter 2.12.

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Motion 13087 was introduced on 9/28/2009 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/12/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Dunn

No: 0

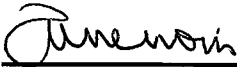
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None