

Sullivan, Fimia, Nickels
Miller, Pullen,
von Reichbauer, Laing
Vance, Derdowski
Hague, Gossett

October 12, 1994

Introduced By:

safecomm.nr

Proposed No.:

94-664

MOTION NO. 9408

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A MOTION adopting the guiding principles and strategies and action plan for the Safe Communities Initiative developed by the Metropolitan King County Council's Law, Justice and Human Services Committee.

WHEREAS, All communities in King County and around the nation are impacted by growing youth violence, and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan King County Council's Law, Justice and Human Services Committee dedicated 1994 to developing a Safe Communities Initiative in response to growing youth violence in King County and concern about public safety, and

WHEREAS, the committee received input from hundreds of concerned individuals, including youth, parents, employers, and public and community service providers, from a series of six public hearings that were held throughout King County, and

WHEREAS, the committee gained an increased understanding about youth violence and identified approaches which respond to the needs of youth and communities, by hearing from experts and innovative program providers at numerous committee briefings, and

WHEREAS, the committee learned that while violent crime rates in the county are decreasing, the violent crime rate among youth is actually on the increase, and that no

1 community within King County is immune from youth violence,
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the committee further learned that there is a
4 strong relationship between youth who have been physically
5 and sexually abused and those who commit crimes and that
6 police, parents and service providers believe that prevention
7 and community protection go hand in hand, and

8 WHEREAS, the committee has developed a set of strategies
9 and an action plan to address the needs of youth, families
10 and communities and to build safer communities, and

11 WHEREAS, the strategies include implementing community
12 policing as the guiding model for the provision of police
13 service, reform of juvenile justice laws and the juvenile
14 court process in King County, reducing the impact of domestic
15 violence and the physical and sexual abuse of children,
16 fostering partnerships among all segments of communities to
17 provide options and role models for youth, and developing
18 education, employment and other opportunities for youth
19 involvement, and

20 WHEREAS, the action plan provides priorities and
21 direction for county programs for 1995 and establishes work
22 items for the council for 1995, and

23 WHEREAS, the personal commitment on behalf of
24 councilmembers to the goals of the Safe Communities
25 Initiative will serve as a model for everyone to become more
26 involved in the healthy development of our children and
27 youth, thereby building safer communities;

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

The Metropolitan King County Council adopts the guiding
principles and strategies and action plan for the Safe
Communities Initiative developed by the Law, Justice and
Human Services Committee, which are included as Attachments A
and B to this motion.

PASSED this 24th day of October, 1994.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Passed by a vote of 11-0.

Kent Puller
Chair

ATTEST:

Gerald A. Peterson
Clerk of the Council

Attachments:

Attachment A -- Law, Justice and Human Services Committee,
Safe Communities--Response to Youth Violence, Guiding
Principles

Attachment B -- Law, Justice and Human Services Committee,
Safe Communities--Response to Youth Violence, Strategies and
Action Plan

Metropolitan King County Council .
Law Justice & Human Services Committee

SAFE COMMUNITIES -- RESPONDING TO YOUTH VIOLENCE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The increase in youth violence is a wake up call to the whole community. The increasing numbers of youth at-risk shake the foundation of safe communities.
- All communities are impacted by growing youth violence. Low income and minority communities have substantially higher risk.
- There are no single solutions and quick fixes.
- Government by itself has neither the resources nor the ability to make up for the natural family and community ties that are the fundamental underpinnings of society.
- Individuals, families, and communities should be encouraged, empowered and assisted to help themselves and each other.
- Services should be easily accessible in local communities and places appropriate for users, and coordinated among numerous providers and systems to benefit individuals and families.
- A comprehensive and focused approach to youth crime and violence is needed. It must include early intervention, prevention, more effective law enforcement and juvenile justice and coordinated strategies. At the same time it must focus efforts where they are most needed and most effective.
- Causes of racial and cultural inequities in the juvenile justice system must be identified and addressed.
- Productive problem solving requires creating new, flexible partnerships between and among:
 - individuals and their service providers
 - communities and the public and private sectors
 - justice, education, health and human service systems
 - county, cities, state and federal governments
- Everyone must become more involved. An increase in personal commitment to improve family and community life is most essential.
- Youth should be involved in policy development and implementation of programs and services related to them.
- The county has a unique opportunity to provide leadership in building safer communities given its historic responsibility for regional law and justice services, its emerging role as a broad-based regional government and service provider and its role as a major county in the state and nation.

7-Oct-94

A

Metropolitan King County Council
Law Justice and Human Services Committee

SAFE COMMUNITIES
Response to Youth Violence

STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLAN

October 17, 1994

B

STRATEGY 1: LAW ENFORCEMENT & JUVENILE JUSTICE

Improve the effectiveness of law enforcement and the juvenile justice system in deterring youth violence and preventing the development of serious, habitual criminal behavior.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

1994-95 COUNCIL ACTION

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek reform of state juvenile justice laws to allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * meaningful sanctions for initial offenses * a wider array of intermediate sanctions and rehabilitation options for middle offenders (too serious for community diversion and not serious enough for commitment to state juvenile institutions) * secure mental health and substance abuse treatment options, and * restoration and enhancement of parent participation and responsibility. • Support reform of the juvenile court process in King County -----Speed up, simplify and clarify the process for juvenile offenders, families and victims. • Develop a wider variety of approaches to deal effectively with the more diverse and troubled population within the juvenile justice system including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * access to community treatment services (i.e. substance abuse and mental health) * improved probation supervision and support for youth who lack stability and family support to follow through successfully in the juvenile court process, and * community partnerships involving community groups and volunteers providing support and individual mentoring. • Assess the feasibility of establishing a juvenile court in South King County to improve access to the court for south county residents. • Support development of court models for dealing more effectively with children, youth and families, i.e. unified family court for families with multiple legal issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek reform as a priority in the county's 1995 state legislative program. Work with the Prosecuting Attorney, Superior Court, Washington State Association of Counties, Washington Association of County Officials and the Regional Law, Safety and Justice Committee to develop specific positions and strategies and build coalitions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include funds in the 1995 budget for procedural reforms and elimination of case backlogs. Require quarterly progress reports to the Council. • Identify other procedural/structural barriers in the juvenile court as a part of the 1995 Law Justice and Human Services Committee work program. • Include funding in the 1995 budget to improve access to community mental health and substance abuse treatment for youth offenders from available dedicated sources. • Examine probation and support service needs of middle offenders as part of the Law Justice and Human Services Committee 1995 work program. • Consider support for pilot community partnership projects in the 1995 budget or subsequent budgets. • By proviso in the 1995 budget require the Departments of Youth Services, Human Services and Public Health to evaluate implementation and results of the juvenile offender service improvements with the guidance and oversight of the Children and Family Commission. Report progress and results to the Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By proviso in the 1995 budget direct the Executive, in conjunction with Superior Court, to complete a feasibility study and make recommendations prior to development of the 1996 budget. • Continue Law Justice and Human Service Committee membership on the Unified Family Court Committee in 1995 and consider forthcoming proposals.

COMMUNITY POLICING

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement community policing as the guiding philosophy and model for provision of police services. Give initial priority to development of technological, training and systems infrastructure. Infrastructure should support assignment of officers to permanent patrol districts, with priority given to unincorporated areas with significant youth crime and at-risk youth. Officers should work with all elements of the community to prevent, control and reduce youth crime, and should participate in Safe Communities -- Youth Partnerships (described in Strategy 2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt 1995 funding for community policing technology, coordinator and training officers. • Direct Executive through a 1995 budget proviso to establish benchmarks and an evaluation process for determining the effectiveness of community policing. Instruct the Executive that priority in implementation of community policing should be given to unincorporated areas with significant youth crime and populations of at-risk youth. • Direct Executive to refocus Department of Public Safety policy and procedures to reflect community policing philosophy and methodology and report back to the Council.
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STRATEGY 2 INVOLVING EVERYONE

Mobilize all elements of the community to work together for community safety and opportunities for youth.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

1994-95 COUNCIL ACTION

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

- Implement "Safe Communities - Youth Partnerships" to assist communities to provide positive options and role models for youth and to reduce youth crime and violence.
 - ⇒ Encourage local communities to address a range of preventive and enforcement approaches which reinforce one another and help to create higher expectations, greater opportunities and a more valued place for youth. These approaches include but are not limited to:
 - * providing more pathways to success in school
 - * expanding the opportunities for individual mentoring relationships with adults
 - * improving the safety and security for youth in school and activities
 - * increasing work and community service and recognition opportunities
 - * involving youth in developing options and activities and solving youth and violence problems
 - * reducing fear of youth crime and violence
 - * expanding supervised after school and evening activities
 - * preventing teen pregnancy, substance abuse and dating violence
 - * providing transportation to allow youth involvement in community options
 - ⇒ Involve schools, community groups and volunteers, youth, city government (where appropriate), police, business, parks and recreation, health and human services and transportation providers
 - ⇒ Provide assistance to selected, local communities to help them mobilize available community and public resources to develop a broad based, mutually reinforcing "youth and community" agenda.
 - ⇒ Support the partnerships with:
 - * staff support to help mobilize involvement and facilitate joint planning
 - * data and evaluation assistance to help identify needs and measure progress (Provide as part of a larger, countywide community assessment and benchmarking process included in Strategy 5.)
 - * Seed money to help fill gaps and leverage other community and public resources.

- Charge the Children and Family Commission and the departments of Youth Services, Human Services, Public Safety, Public Health and Parks with developing and submitting an implementation plan for several pilot projects. Include funding in the 1995 to be released pending review and approval of the implementation plan..
 - The implementation plan shall include:
 - ⇒ a review of similar models and efforts in King County and elsewhere
 - ⇒ community selection criteria and procedures focusing on :
 - * local communities with one or more associated high schools
 - * risk for youth crime and violence and the interest, readiness or potential of the community
 - * areas where the county is the primary local government or where a city is willing to jointly sponsor the partnership effort.
 - ⇒ steps for building the partnerships to include the schools, local business and community and youth groups, the new state-sponsored community networks and community based providers.
 - ⇒ a process for developing the community and youth agenda and releasing seed money.
 - ⇒ Include steps to inform participating communities about existing successful partnership efforts involving schools and police, parks, youth and schools, etc.
 - ⇒ plans for staffing the partnership efforts first utilizing existing county and partner staff, then augmenting, if necessary, with project funds.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

- Increase opportunities for youth involvement and leadership development
 - ⇒ Facilitate development of youth action councils.
 - ⇒ Encourage county programs and boards and commissions to involve youth directly in advising them about their services for youth.
 - ⇒ Increase youth awareness of issues, opportunities and services via improvements in public information and communications efforts.

- Include funding for a youth program developer position in the 1995 Children and Family Commission budget. Require the Commission to prepare and submit for Council review and approval a plan for youth involvement. The plan shall make recommendations as to how to proceed on the specified strategic action items. For each of these items the Commission shall also include an inventory and assessment of current efforts within the county and identify local and national models.

STRATEGY 3: SUCCESSFUL FUTURES

Increase opportunities for at-risk, middle and high school age youth to develop skills and have work experiences necessary to a successful transition to the work world and economic self-sufficiency.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

1994-95 COUNCIL ACTION

EDUCATION TRAINING AND JOBS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of at risk youth who have the opportunity for successful work experiences. (Target youth who are in school but at risk of dropping out since the Private Industry Council programs now focus primarily on drop outs and others in need of more extensive remediation.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Increase the number of summer and year round job slots for low income youth in both the private and public sectors. ⇒ Work with the Private Industry Council, schools, community-based providers, business and Metro Transit to expand the employment training and support services necessary to success in the additional job placements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain commitment from key county elected officials of both parties and city officials to enlist business leaders and identify first increment of jobs prior to summer 1995 and to sustain the effort in future years. • Based on review of proposal in the 1995 Executive budget request, include funding for expanded employment support services to recruit, select and support youth in the additional jobs. • By proviso in the 1995 budget direct the Executive to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Make youth intern opportunities a priority for use of any savings departments are allowed to keep pursuant to the Executive's downsizing proposal and address ways departments can incorporate more opportunities for youth in providing existing services and ways to encourage or require contractors and vendors to provide opportunities for youth. ⇒ work with the Private Industry Council and jointly report to the Council regarding the development of youth employment programs in the in this region. • Introduce an ordinance to offer procurement incentives to King County contractors who set a percentage of jobs for youth (16 to 24 years old).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote school/community partnerships to increase school retention and graduation rates and improve job readiness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the issue of how to increase school retention and graduation as part of the 1995 Law Justice and Human Services Committee work program. Based on review, identify barriers and recommend the most effective strategies and models.

STRATEGY 4: FOCUS ON FAMILIES

Reduce risks for youth by helping to strengthen families and reduce abuse and neglect, especially in the early childhood years.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

1994-95 COUNCIL ACTION

PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

- Establish priority in the Public Health program for further development of:
 - ⇒ comprehensive prenatal to 3 year old early intervention,
 - ⇒ parenting education, and
 - ⇒ teen pregnancy prevention programs.

- Fund expansion of comprehensive early intervention and parenting education in the 1995 budget.
- By proviso in the 1995 budget specify that development of prevention and early intervention programs for children, youth and families is the top priority for use of new or redirected public health funds. Direct the Executive to submit for Council review and adoption a plan for expansion of these services including proposed financing policies and strategies.

PREVALENT INTERVENTION

- Support continued development of a comprehensive, coordinated legal and social and health service response to family violence.
 - ⇒ Increase treatment and support services for children who are exposed to domestic violence as well as for children who are direct victims of physical, psychological or sexual abuse.
 - ⇒ Review and respond to anticipated reports and plans regarding the domestic violence and sexual assault response systems.

- Based on review of the domestic violence report required by motion earlier this year, include funding in the 1995 budget for an initiative to identify and provide support to children exposed to and affected by domestic violence.
- By proviso in the 1995 budget direct Mental Health to develop specific agreements with the domestic violence and sexual assault systems to increase access to treatment for children affected by family violence.
- Review the system plan for sexual assault services when it is completed by the Human Services Roundtable in 1995, to identify long range system improvement priorities.

STRATEGY 6. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Provide leadership to significantly increase involvement from all sectors in efforts to promote the healthy development of our youth and improve the safety and well being of our communities.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

1994-95 COUNCIL ACTION

ONGOING COMMITMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model personal commitment and involvement by obtaining individual councilmember commitments to providing leadership and personal involvement in specific projects related to the Safe Communities agenda. Encourage the use of schools as community centers to increase youth and adult interaction and meet needs of developing communities in the most cost effective manner.-- Build partnerships between schools, communities and parks and recreation for joint development of community education, meeting and recreation facilities and programs. Encourage adults to become individually involved as role models for youth by identifying and promoting a wide variety of mentoring opportunities and programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain individual councilmember commitments to take leadership responsibility for specific projects such as the jobs initiative or youth action councils or modeling individual involvement by volunteering in mentoring or other youth programs by December 1, 1994. By proviso in the 1995 Parks budget direct the Executive to submit for Council review and approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ a strategy for developing partnerships with school districts for joint use of existing facilities and programs and development of new ones.. ⇒ a policy for the Parks Master Plan to give priority to school partnership projects in the Parks Capital Improvement Plan. Include identification of model mentoring programs and provide public education regarding these opportunities through electronic media as a priority in the 1995 Law Justice and Human Services Committee work program.
<p>IMPLEMENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a systematic assessment process and data system with benchmarks for measuring and tracking the health and safety of communities in King County. Provide data and analysis to county and community planning and evaluation efforts as a regional support service to promote coordination and a focus on results for the community.. Assess progress on implementation of this initiative and update annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By proviso in the 1995 budget direct the Health Department in conjunction with the Children and Family Commission to submit in early 1995 and implementation plan for Council review and approval. The plan shall address requirements under state law for Public Health to provide assessment data and analysis for the new Community Networks as well as the needs of county programs and communities. It shall also recognize expansion of assessment capacity as a top priority for the use of new or redirected Public Health funds. Complete review and adopt a motion updating the Strategies and Action Plan by October 1, 1995.