



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 25, 2001

Motion 11246

Proposed No. 2001-0284.2

Sponsors Nickels

1 A MOTION expressing concerns regarding a decision by
2 President Bush and Housing and Urban Development
3 Secretary Martinez to eliminate the Public Housing Drug
4 Elimination Program and cutting the housing authority
5 capital budget by twenty-five percent; calling on the
6 Washington state congressional delegation to restore the
7 funding; reinforcing the need to maintain levels of
8 funding for both housing programs and drug education
9 and crime prevention programs, calling upon the federal
10 government to ensure that future levels of funding reflect
11 and meet the needs of low income persons; and calling
12 upon the National Association of Counties to play a
13 leadership role in advocating for the needs of low income
14 persons for housing, drug education, and crime
15 prevention.
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18 WHEREAS, federally subsidized public housing authorities which provide safe
19 and healthy homes for low income citizens and their families are a critical resource to the
20 people of King County, Washington, and

21 WHEREAS, public housing authorities receive United States Department of
22 Housing and Urban Development funds to repair and maintain public housing properties
23 and to provide drug and crime prevention programs assuring public safety and quality of
24 life for low-income families, and

25 WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2002 Housing and Urban Development budget
26 proposal reduces the capital budget for all housing authorities in the United States by
27 twenty-five percent or \$700 million and eliminates the \$310 million Public Housing Drug
28 Elimination Program, and

29 WHEREAS, the proposed capital budget reductions will potentially impact three
30 King County housing authorities: Renton Housing Authority, King County Housing
31 Authority and Seattle Housing Authority, and the Public Housing Drug Elimination
32 Program funding losses potentially affects the King County Housing Authority and
33 Seattle Housing Authority, and

34 WHEREAS, when a twenty-five percent reduction is applied to current levels of
35 funding, the potential loss to housing authorities in King County will be \$5,587,713.00 in
36 the capital budgets for public housing and \$2,347,583.00 in the Public Housing Drug
37 Elimination Program, totaling a countywide loss of \$7,935,296.00 for FY 2002, and

38 WHEREAS, a twenty-five percent cut to housing authority capital budgets may
39 force staff reductions that result in cancellations or delays to urgently needed low income
40 and affordable housing projects, and

41 WHEREAS, cancellation or delays of projects cost construction jobs in our
42 community and in the case of renovation or rehabilitation projects, will cause or increase
43 the rate of deterioration of the buildings, after millions of dollars had been invested in
44 these housing sites over the past fifteen years, and

45 WHEREAS, failure to fund maintenance for low-income public housing
46 dwellings increases the risk of the “broken window syndrome” of dilapidated housing in
47 distressed communities, thus further attracting drugs and drug related crime, and

48 WHEREAS, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp and
49 President George H.W. Bush created the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program in
50 1989 to help housing authorities combat drugs, provide security for the residents and
51 provide after-school education and sports programs, and

52 WHEREAS, King County and Seattle housing authorities have been recipients of
53 numerous best practices awards for drug elimination prevention programs and resident
54 involvement in crime prevention awards by the Department of Housing and Urban
55 Development and National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officers, and

56 WHEREAS, King County and Seattle housing authorities have utilized Public
57 Housing Drug Elimination Program funds to successfully reduce drugs and drug-related
58 crime incidents in formerly high crime areas, and

59 WHEREAS, by eliminating the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program, King
60 County housing authorities would have to cancel many essential security and youth
61 programs and back out of partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, losing over
62 \$2,347,583.00 to the county crime prevention effort every year, and

63 WHEREAS, while King County appreciates any efforts by the Secretary of
64 Housing and Urban Development to put more of the departments available resources into
65 the core mission of housing and increasing the accountability of the department, the
66 county has significant concerns that the negative effect of proposed reductions to the
67 funding of public housing authorities and drug education and crime prevention programs
68 will be felt primarily by low income persons;

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

70 We express our deep concern over the proposed fiscal year 2002 Housing and
71 Urban Development budget reductions, and

72 BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Council of King County calls upon the
73 Washington state congressional delegation and Representative James Walsh, Chairman of
74 the VA-HUD Appropriations - Subcommittee to fund the budget for the Department of
75 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at a level equal to FY 2001.

76 BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Council of King County calls upon the
77 federal administration and Congress for FY 2002 priority funding within the HUD budget
78 for drug education and crime prevention programs equal to FY 2001.

79 BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Council of King County calls upon the
80 federal administration and Congress for funding within the Department of Justice for
81 those programs which increase public safety benefits and the "safety net" services
82 provided by local law enforcement and non-profit organizations to residents of public
83 housing.

84 BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Council of King County calls upon the
85 federal administration and Congress to ensure that the level of future capital funds for

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86 housing and drug education and crime prevention programs reflect and meet the needs of
87 low income persons.

88 BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Council of King County calls upon the
89 National Association of County Officials to play an increased leadership role in
90 advocating for the restoration and continued provision of adequate funding for housing
91 resources and drug education and crime prevention programs.

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Motion 11246 was introduced on 5/14/01 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/23/01, by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Miller, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels, Mr. Pullen, Ms. Hague, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Irons

No: 0

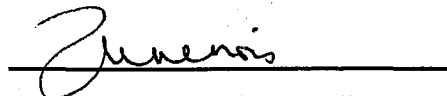
Excused: 3 - Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Gossett

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY WASHINGTON



Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None