



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**March 5, 2002**

**Motion 11388**

**Proposed No.** 2002-0080.2

**Sponsors** Gossett

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A MOTION authorizing the proceeds of the auction of sheriff's office rifles and shotguns to be apportioned to the King County sheriff's office for purchasing lock boxes.

WHEREAS, the King County sheriff's office commissioned personnel are required to possess firearms, and

WHEREAS, while off duty, King County sheriff's office commissioned personnel must retain the county firearms in their own residences, and

WHEREAS, these weapons should be stored in a safe manner to ensure the safety of the families, children and neighbors of these personnel and,

WHEREAS, lives would be jeopardized if these firearms were stolen or were to end up in the wrong hands, and

WHEREAS, lock boxes may be issued to commissioned persons as an additional way to store their weapons safely and securely while off duty, and

19           WHEREAS, the King County sheriff's office has rifles and shotguns that have  
20           been judicially forfeited and are no longer needed for evidence, and

21           WHEREAS, the King County sheriff's office has rifles and shotguns that have  
22           been forfeited due to a failure to make a claim for property under chapter 63.32 RCW,  
23           and

24           WHEREAS, the rifles and shotguns have been examined by a qualified armorer  
25           and none of them are an antique, curio, relic or weapon of historical value, and

26           WHEREAS, none of the weapons examined have been used in a violent crime,  
27           and

28           WHEREAS, K.C.C. 2.16.062B.2 authorizes the sheriff's office to auction or  
29           arrange for the auction of such rifles and shotguns, and

30           WHEREAS, the King County sheriff's office will conduct an auction of the rifles,  
31           the proceeds of which will be retained by King County council;

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

33           The proceeds of the auction shall be apportioned to the King County sheriff's

**Motion 11388**

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34 office for the purpose of purchasing lock boxes for its commissioned personnel to use in  
35 their private residences or for the existing purpose of weapon replacement. The King  
36 County sheriff's office shall include in its annual report concerning the disposition of  
37 confiscated firearms the number of lock boxes purchased and provided to deputies under  
38 this program.

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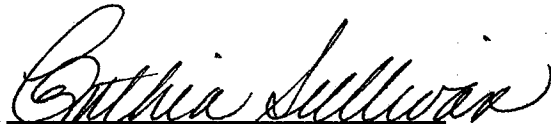
Motion 11388 was introduced on 2/19/2002 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/4/2002, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Irons and Ms. Patterson

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      A. Sheriff's Proposal-Handgun Lock Box Program for Commissioned Personnel



*Sheriff's Proposal*  
**HANDGUN LOCK BOX PROGRAM  
FOR COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL**

**Summary:** The Sheriff proposes a motion that would allow the KCSO to auction or trade forfeited rifles and shotguns<sup>1</sup>, as permitted by current county ordinance and state law, for the purpose of obtaining and issuing lock boxes to KCSO commissioned personnel for their service handgun.

It is the Sheriff's intention to promote safe home storage practices among KCSO deputies by providing a lock box for voluntary home use.

**Overview:** The KCSO has 672 commissioned officers<sup>2</sup> with each having a service handgun. Deputies receive extensive training in firearm use before they receive their commission. Semi-annually, and throughout their career, all commissioned personnel must maintain a rigorous standard of proficiency in firearm use.

All deputies are responsible for the care and maintenance of the service weapon they are issued. The KCSO's intent is to improve commissioned personnel's awareness of weapon safety and storage at home and to be a gun safety role model for our community. A home safety component is being added to the basic KCSO firearms training curriculum and will be reinforced at each qualification. It is important that commissioned personnel be given the equipment necessary to maintain their duty weapon in a safe condition at their residence. The Sheriff's Office does not currently issue any kind of home storage device for deputies' service handgun.

Issuing a (home use) storage unit for law enforcement service weapons has not generally been a common practice. Recently, agencies such as the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, Redmond PD, Washington State Parks, and others have issued lock boxes or similar storage devices to all of their agents and officers.

A near tragedy in our community raised law enforcement's awareness of the liability and risk related to duty weapons stored at home. The event has inspired local law enforcement agencies to address the home storage issue for officers. Redmond PD, for example, has purchased and issued lock boxes to their commissioned personnel as a

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<sup>1</sup> See RCW 63.32 and KCC2.16.062B.2 for language related to the disposal of firearms

<sup>2</sup> Actual commissioned staff as of 09/17/01, not total authorized.

result of this incident. A tragic home shooting in Tennessee already this year has taken the life of a rookie police officer.

The King County Sheriff, with the support of the King County Police Officers Guild, believes that issuing a lock box to commissioned personnel is a responsible and sensible policy step that also sends an appropriate public message about King County's pro-active support of safe storage practices.

In the Fall of 2001, the Sheriff joined the Lieutenant Governor and a host of police and federal law enforcement agencies in launching a statewide free trigger lock give-a-way program.

**Proposal:** The Sheriff proposes that the King County Council develop and move legislation that would allow for the trade and/or purchase of handgun lock boxes to be issued to KCSO commissioned personnel. The sale or trade of seized rifles and shotguns<sup>3</sup>, as permitted by existing ordinance and state law, is the proposed mechanism for financing the initial purchase of lock boxes.

The Property Management Unit (PMU) reports that there are 336 long guns in inventory<sup>4</sup> legally available for sale or trade at an estimated (blue book) value of \$39,305. Sheriff's Office staff have been researching lock boxes and vendors and have determined that an appropriate lock box would cost between \$70-\$110 for each box<sup>5</sup>.

The KCSO would need to purchase roughly 675 lock boxes. The Sheriff proposes that the remaining balance for the purchase of lock boxes be directly appropriated by the council and reimbursed by the KCSO through future sales of qualified rifles and shotguns.

A draft motion prepared by the KCSO Legal Unit is attached for review and consideration.

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<sup>3</sup> Only those NOT used in the commission of a crime will be auctioned for this program

<sup>4</sup> As of 7.31.01

<sup>5</sup> This proposal would go out to various vendors for bid, which may result in some additional per unit savings



*Sheriff's Proposal*  
**HANDGUN LOCK BOX PROGRAM  
FOR COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL**

**Executive Summary**

The Sheriff proposes a motion that would allow the KCSO to trade or auction forfeited rifles and shotguns, as permitted by current county ordinance and state law, for the purpose of obtaining and issuing lock boxes to KCSO commissioned personnel for their service handgun.

**Goals of the program**

- promote safe home storage practices among KCSO deputies
- promote safe storage practices to the community
- reduce (county) liability from home accidents

**Mechanism**

- Sale and/or trade of long guns (as currently permitted) that are in PMU inventory
- Council needs to create motion to allow for sale or trade for the purpose of obtaining and issuing KCSO lock boxes (draft motion completed by KCSO)

**Financing the program**

- 675 commissioned personnel have service handgun
- Currently have an estimated \$39,300 worth of "qualified" guns to sell or trade
- Lock boxes range from \$70-\$110 each. No bid has been let
- Sheriff could "repay" county on any outstanding balance on lock boxes not covered by initial auction from future firearm auction proceeds