



Signature Report

September 12, 2006

Motion 12335

Proposed No. 2006-0391.1

Sponsors Ferguson, Phillips, Dunn,
Patterson and Constantine

1 A MOTION calling for a detailed evaluation of funding
2 options, debt capacity, security and operational impacts,
3 and access to the courthouse by all branches of King
4 County government and their employees, jurors and the
5 general public of capital improvements to renovate and
6 reopen the south entrance to the King County Courthouse
7 and for the potential closure of the east and west entrances
8 of the courthouse.

9
10
11 WHEREAS, historically, the primary entrance to the King County Courthouse
12 was on the south side of the building in the area that currently functions as the loading
13 dock to the courthouse, adjacent to City Hall park, and

14 WHEREAS, the city of Seattle is currently undertaking a project titled "City Hall
15 Park Restoration Project" with the goal of transforming City Hall park into an attractive
16 gateway to downtown Seattle, and

17 WHEREAS it is a common goal of all branches of King County government
18 using the courthouse and the City of Seattle to improve the safety, cleanliness, and
19 usefulness of City Hall park, and

20 WHEREAS, improvements to City Hall park would make little sense without a
21 reopening of the courthouse south entrance, and

22 WHEREAS, reopening of the south entrance would physically integrate the
23 downtown King County campus, encouraging way-finding between the courthouse, new
24 county office building, King County administration building and the Yesler building, and

25 WHEREAS, the King County council has formally adopted Motion 11196
26 establishing a limit on the use of current expense fund revenues for debt service by
27 requiring that annual debt service payments shall not exceed five percent of the current
28 expense fund's net revenue available for debt service, and

29 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the county to pursue all funding options
30 for the south entrance project in order to minimize the impact on the limited current
31 expense fund debt service capacity, and

32 WHEREAS, the reopened south entrance would require both security staffing and
33 equipment but the potential closure of the east and west entrances may mitigate or offset
34 these security costs, and could potentially fund the debt service for reopening the south
35 entrance, and

36 WHEREAS, the use by the public of the reopened south entrance will be affected
37 by whether one or both of the east and west entrances are closed and the impacts to
38 public access of both the reopened south entrance and the potential closure of the east and
39 west entrances must be understood, and

40 WHEREAS, the reopening of the south entrance and the potential closure of the
41 east and west entrances would impact all branches of King County government, including
42 the elected officials and staff of the King County sheriff, the King County council,
43 superior court, district court and the prosecuting attorney as well as jurors and the general
44 public and therefore outreach and consultation with all of these groups and the public is
45 needed prior to any final decision about reopening the south entrance and closing the east
46 and west entrances, and

47 WHEREAS, while immediate funding of the south entrance design work is
48 prudent and appropriate, King County should not proceed to construction of the south
49 entrance until a detailed study of the identified issues of funding, debt capacity, security
50 and operational impacts and access to the courthouse by all branches of King County
51 government and their employees, jurors and the general public;

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

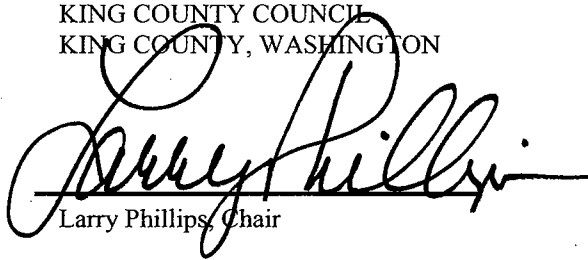
53 The county executive shall prepare a report that evaluates impacts to courthouse
54 access and funding and operational options for the reopening and renovation of the
55 courthouse south entrance and the potential closure of the east and west entrances,
56 including, but not limited to, grant funding, one-time revenues associated with surplus
57 sale of real property, and operational costs and potential savings. The report shall also
58 include an evaluation of access impacts to all branches of King County government and
59 their employees, as well as jurors and the general public and the results of outreach to
60 each of these groups. The county executive shall transmit and the council shall adopt a
61 motion containing this report and these recommendations prior to the appropriation or

62 expenditure of construction funds for capital improvements to renovate and reopen the
63 south courthouse entrance and potentially close the east and west entrances.
64

Motion 12335 was introduced on 8/28/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/11/2006, by the following vote:

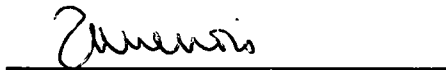
Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Constantine and Ms. Patterson
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None