



King County

KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 8, 2009

Motion 13066

Proposed No. 2009-0436.1

Sponsors Patterson

1 A MOTION supporting a multicounty work force housing
 2 down payment assistance initiative to assist in restoring the
 3 economic vitality of western Washington
 4

5 WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was passed by the
 6 United States Congress with the goal of stimulating the economy and providing jobs for
 7 Americans, and

8 WHEREAS, one of the principle drivers in the current economic crisis is the
 9 decline of the housing industry, resulting in increasing foreclosures, loss of jobs and
 10 reductions in public and private revenues, and

11 WHEREAS, this decline has led to thousands of homes being on the market, often
 12 at depressed prices, which further depressed the real estate market and increases
 13 unemployment, and

14 WHEREAS, an active housing industry is a major creator of jobs and wealth;
 15 construction of one hundred single family units has been shown to create one hundred
 16 jobs, \$18.1 million in local income and \$2.8 million in taxes and fees; and

17 WHEREAS, the Puget Sound region has been concerned for a number of years
18 over the issue of "workforce housing," which refers to the difficulty of working families
19 in this region who have moderate means of affording homes in the communities where
20 they work, and

21 WHEREAS, in the current depressed market, many of these families could afford
22 to purchase homes, having the necessary credit and the ability to make payments, but lack
23 the necessary down payment, and

24 WHEREAS, assisting these families in the purchase of a home would have
25 multiple benefits including increasing the availability of housing to middle income
26 families, reducing the existing over-supply of housing on the market, creating jobs,
27 increasing family incomes and providing local revenues for local, state and federal
28 governments, and

29 WHEREAS, the Puget Sound region seeks to apply principles of equity and social
30 justice through an economic strategy that will create communities of opportunity, where
31 individuals have access to livable wages, affordable housing, quality education, quality
32 health care and safe and vibrant neighborhoods, and

33 WHEREAS, providing first time homebuyers with down payment assistance will
34 promote many of these economic goals, and

35 WHEREAS, King County, Pierce county, Thurston county, Clark county and
36 Snohomish county have worked together with representatives of the non-profit and for-
37 profit housing industry to develop the outline of the Work Force Housing Down Payment
38 Assistance Initiative, and

39 WHEREAS, King County, Pierce county, Thurston county, Clark county and
40 Snohomish county intend to request \$50 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Fund
41 dollars for the Work Force Housing Down Payment Assistance Initiative, and

42 WHEREAS, the proposal will be written and submitted to the federal Department
43 of Housing and Urban Development by the state Department of Commerce, who would
44 also administer the program, and

45 WHEREAS, the Work Force Housing Down Payment Assistance Initiative is
46 designed to create a region-wide pool to provide down payment assistance to first time
47 homebuyers according to the rules set forth by the federal Department of Housing and
48 Urban Development, and

49 WHEREAS, targeted down payment assistance under the Work Force Housing
50 Down Payment Assistance Initiative would be in the form of a loan, payable upon the
51 refinancing or sale of the home, and

52 WHEREAS, targeted down payment assistance is available for six hundred
53 affordable foreclosed properties, for up to twenty percent of their value, and

54 WHEREAS, all funds must be used for those earning one hundred twenty percent
55 or less than the median income, with twenty-five percent of funds allocated for those
56 earning fifty percent or less than the median income, and

57 WHEREAS, these loans, as repaid, would establish a revolving fund to continue
58 assistance into the future which will provide ongoing opportunities, and

59 WHEREAS, this stimulus measure will spur economic growth with job
60 stabilization and new jobs for those involved in real estate transaction, banking industry
61 and housing trades, and

62 WHEREAS, the creation of jobs in these industries will then create additional
63 jobs in other industries due to the multiplier effect;

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

65 A multicounty work force housing down payment assistance initiative to
66 assist in restoring the economic vitality of western Washington is hereby supported
67 by King County.

68

Motion 13066 was introduced on 7/20/2009 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/8/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett and Mr. Phillips

No: 0

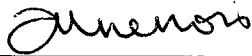
Excused: 2 - Ms. Patterson and Mr. Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None