



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 29, 2011

Motion 13451

Proposed No. 2011-0135.2

**Sponsors Gossett, Phillips, Patterson,
McDermott, Ferguson and Hague**

1 A MOTION supporting public employees and honoring
2 their work by declaring the fourth Monday in March of
3 each year as Public Employee Appreciation Day in King
4 County.

5 WHEREAS, public employees at all levels of government provide essential
6 public services, without which societal life as enjoyed by the residents of King County
7 would be greatly diminished, and

8 WHEREAS, public employees include doctors, nurses, firefighters, teachers,
9 police, social workers, laborers and many other professions, and

10 WHEREAS, public employees provide services that are generally not profitable
11 for the private sector to provide, and public employees provide critical services such as
12 health care to individuals who would otherwise not be able to afford them, and

13 WHEREAS, public employees are often members of unions and Washington state
14 has recognized the importance and value of laws that ensure workplace safety, the right
15 to bargain collectively and the voters of Washington approved the most progressive
16 minimum wage law in the nation, and

17 WHEREAS, public employees are a significant part of the middle class and an
18 essential component of a strong, democratic society, and

19 WHEREAS, King County has more than thirteen thousand employees, many of
20 whom are union members, who are dedicated to providing excellent customer service and
21 who are highly skilled in their trades or professions, and

22 WHEREAS, public employees throughout the nation and in King County have
23 lost their jobs and have voluntarily accepted reduced wages as a way to maintain the level
24 of public services during this "Great Recession," and

25 WHEREAS, around the country and in King County, labor leaders and their union
26 members have stepped forward to voluntarily participate in wage and benefit reductions,
27 furloughs and other cost-saving measures to preserve the jobs of their fellow employees
28 and assist in managing the impacts of the recession on governmental budgets, and have
29 developed creative ways to reduce costs and increase efficiencies, and

30 WHEREAS, King County employees in particular stepped forward in 2009 and
31 volunteered for unpaid furlough days, in 2010 county employees did a mix of unpaid
32 furlough days and forewent cost-of-living adjustments and in 2011 employees again
33 volunteered to forego cost-of-living adjustments in order to preserve the jobs of their
34 fellow employees and to preserve service levels for the public, yet King County still had
35 to eliminate over six hundred thirty-five jobs cumulatively during 2010 and 2011, and

36 WHEREAS, all working men and women deserve honor and respect for the work
37 they do, including public employees, and King County will continue to partner with its
38 employees so they are empowered to perform their jobs efficiently and creatively with
39 high-quality customer service;

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

41 A. The council reaffirms its support for public employees and the services they
42 provide and the right of public employees to organize and to bargain collectively. The
43 council opposes any attempt to restrict or eliminate collective bargaining in the state of
44 Washington. Collective bargaining has evolved historically as an important
45 organizational tool and provides checks and balances for labor and management in the
46 workplace.

47 B. The council is committed to treating all of its employees fairly and with
48 respect and to bargaining in good faith with its represented public employees.

49 C. The council declares Monday, March 28, 2011, as Public Employee

50 Appreciation Day, and thereafter, every fourth Monday in March shall be Public

51 Employee Appreciation Day.

52

Motion 13451 was introduced on 3/21/2011 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/28/2011, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr.
McDermott

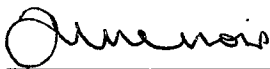
No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None