



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**October 24, 2011**

**Ordinance 17214**

**Proposed No. 2011-0384.1**

**Sponsors McDermott**

1                   AN ORDINANCE readopting the findings contained in  
2                   Ordinance 17178, Section 1.

3                   BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

4                   SECTION 1. Findings:

5                   A. On August 29, 2011, the county council adopted Ordinance 17178 to declare  
6                   an emergency one-year moratorium on the issuance of public amusement/entertainment  
7                   licenses for any new music and dance entertainment venues and precluding the  
8                   establishment of any such venues within the commercial zoned land of North Highline  
9                   subject to the economic redevelopment special district overlay.

10                  B. RCW 36.70A.390 and Ordinance 17178, Section 2.B, require that a public  
11                  hearing be conducted within sixty days of the enactment of a moratorium and the  
12                  adoption of findings that support the council adoption of the moratorium.

13                  C. The findings of Ordinance 17178, Section 1, remain valid and should be  
14                  readopted.

15                  SECTION 2. The council hereby adopts the following findings in support of the  
16                  moratorium adopted under Ordinance 17178:

17                  A. The White Center business district is located within the North Highline  
18                  potential annexation area, which is currently being considered for annexation by the city  
19                  of Burien.

20 B. King County supports the annexation of North Highline into an adjacent city  
21 and is committed to seeking ways to support that effort. The commercial viability of the  
22 commercial districts within the North Highline potential annexation area affects the fiscal  
23 impacts of any city considering annexation of North Highline.

24 C. Since 1994, King County has sought to reverse a trend of declining economic  
25 vitality in the White Center business district that was due in part to perceptions, real or  
26 imagined, of ongoing public safety concerns.

27 D. In Ordinance 11351 in 1994, King County adopted the White Center  
28 Community Action Plan to provide incentives for the redevelopment of underutilized  
29 commercial properties.

30 E. Today, the White Center business district is mainly a drive up retail area that  
31 includes two ethnic grocery stores, an ethnic butcher and meat market, a small  
32 independent drug store, a large regional drug store, ethnic restaurants, beauty and nail  
33 salons, American-styled bars and grills and a few office-oriented businesses and spaces.

34 F. While these businesses represent a modicum of success in King County's  
35 effort, the continuing presence of vacant buildings is indicative of a reluctance to locate  
36 within the White Center business district due in large measure to lingering concerns  
37 about public safety.

38 G. Over the past several years, specific concerns have been raised within the  
39 community related to the operation of music and dance venues that have engendered an  
40 environment that keeps customers away from nearby businesses, thereby endangering the  
41 economic viability of the entire White Center business district.

42           H. The investigations of the numerous complaints have required the significant  
43 use of ever-diminishing county public safety and code enforcement resources.

44           I. King County has authority to establish a moratorium under the Growth  
45 Management Act, RCW 36.70A.390, to preclude approval of a particular land use. The  
46 county may also adopt a moratorium, under its inherent police power, prohibiting

47 approval of new business licenses to facilitate the jurisdiction's interest in studying the  
48 impacts of the prohibited activity.  
49

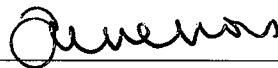
Ordinance 17214 was introduced on 9/19/2011 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/24/2011, by the following vote:

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

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

**ORDERED ENACTED WITHOUT  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S SIGNATURE**

DATE: 11/4/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: None