



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 31, 2018

Ordinance 18775

Proposed No. 2018-0321.2

Sponsors Dunn, von Reichbauer, McDermott,
Balducci, Upthegrove, Gossett, Dembowski,
Kohl-Welles and Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE naming the 500 Fourth Avenue block,
2 and any building on the block, the John Spellman Block
3 and Memorial Building in honor of the late John Dennis
4 Spellman, former King County Commissioner, former King
5 County Executive and Governor of the State of
6 Washington.

7 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 8 1. John Dennis Spellman served the people of King County and the state
9 of Washington with distinction, earning the respect and admiration of
10 constituents and colleagues on both sides of the aisle.
- 11 2. John Dennis Spellman was born in Seattle, Washington on December
12 29, 1926, served in the United States Navy during World War II and was
13 educated at Seattle University and Georgetown University Law Center,
14 earning his baccalaureate and law degrees from those institutions.
- 15 3. John Dennis Spellman was elected to the King County commission in
16 1967.
- 17 4. John Dennis Spellman was elected King County's first county
18 executive in 1969. As executive, John Dennis Spellman worked to

19 modernize county government, consolidating previously independent
20 departments and instituting a merit system. He oversaw the construction
21 of the Kingdome and Seattle's expansion as a major league sports city with
22 the addition of the Seahawks and Mariners. He was twice reelected to the
23 office in 1973 and 1977.

24 5. John Dennis Spellman was elected governor of the state of Washington
25 in 1980. As governor, he is best known for blocking the proposed
26 Northern Tier Oil Pipeline under Puget Sound, proclaiming the Sound "a
27 national treasure" and the pipeline "a very real threat." He served in that
28 office from 1981 to 1985.

29 6. John Dennis Spellman passed away on January 16, 2018.

30 7. John Dennis Spellman was a dedicated and effective public servant
31 who throughout his career led with honor and grace. He will be
32 remembered for these qualities and for his advocacy for his county, his
33 state and the things we hold dear.

34 8. The 500 Fourth Avenue block, on which the King County
35 Administration Building is currently located; is bounded to the west by
36 Fourth Avenue, to the north by James Street, to the east by Fifth Avenue
37 and to the south by Jefferson Street.

38 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

39 SECTION 1. We do hereby honor and memorialize John Dennis Spellman by
40 naming the 500 Fourth Avenue block, which is bounded to the west by Fourth Avenue, to

41 the north by James Street, to the east by Fifth Avenue and to the south by Jefferson
42 Street, and any building on the block, the John Spellman Block and Memorial Building.
43

Ordinance 18775 was introduced on 7/16/2018 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 7/30/2018, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci

No: 0

Excused: 0



KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 2 day of August, 2018.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None