



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL.

2003-506

November 7, 2003

The Honorable Cynthia Sullivan
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Sullivan:

Enclosed for Council consideration and adoption is a proposed ordinance relating to use of the abatement fund to pay for code enforcement personnel costs. The proposed ordinance will make permanent a provision the Metropolitan King County Council authorized for one year when it adopted the 2003 Budget in November 2002.

Moneys in the abatement fund come from code compliance penalties and recovered abatement costs. At the end of 2002, the abatement fund had approximately \$865,000 and has grown to over \$919,000 as of October 28, 2003. The fund is an important tool used to address serious public health and safety issues that require immediate enforcement action.

As you know, code enforcement activities are partially funded out of CX funds. Use of the abatement fund to help pay for code enforcement personnel costs, as well as other abatement expenses, provides the County with an additional means to ensure that public health and safety issues are dealt with in a timely manner. During the current fiscal year, the Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) used the authorization to pay for one fully loaded code enforcement FTE. Continuation of this funding will allow DDES to maintain this funding source for code enforcement beyond 2003.

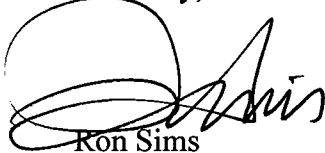
As part of its effort to ensure that code enforcement funds are used efficiently, DDES convened a task force and hired an outside consultant to review the code enforcement process and make recommendations for efficiencies. The task force recommended that the abatement fund provision be continued to fund one code enforcement position. Additional recommendations from the task force are under review and will be forwarded to the Council for its consideration early in 2004.



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If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Stephanie Warden, Director, Department of Development and Environmental Services, at (206) 296-6700.

Sincerely,



Ron Sims
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: David deCourcy, Chief of Staff

Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Steve Call, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Debora Gay, Deputy Director, OMB

Steve Broz, Budget Supervisor, OMB

Stephanie Warden, Director, Department of Development and Environmental Services

Michael Frawley, Administrative Manager, DDES

Harry Reinert, Special Projects Manager, DDES