



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 26, 2010

Motion 13279

Proposed No. 2010-0395.1

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION requesting the departments of community and
2 human services and adult and juvenile detention along with
3 public health, superior court, district court, the prosecuting
4 attorney, the sheriff's office and the public defender to
5 develop and submit for council acceptance, a strategic plan
6 for offender reentry from jail facilities and community
7 corrections programs in King County.

8 WHEREAS, in 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law the Second
9 Chance Act, which provides \$100 million annually to local and state governments for the
10 implementation of reentry programs for released prison and jail inmates, and

11 WHEREAS, the goal of the Second Chance Act is to provide ex-offenders with
12 needed services in order to reduce recidivism and improve public safety, and

13 WHEREAS, to apply for these funds, local governments must have in place a
14 strategic plan for reentry developed through collaboration with key stakeholders and
15 jurisdictions must also have in place a reentry task force with representatives from the
16 community and the criminal justice system, and

17 WHEREAS, reentry is identified by the Council of State Governments as "the
18 process of transitioning from jail to community for individuals leaving incarceration,"
19 and

20 WHEREAS, successful reintegration into the community from jail requires that
21 the released individual obtains stable housing and employment; receives services for and
22 works toward mental health or chemical dependency recovery, or both; and chooses not
23 to engage in criminal behavior, and

24 WHEREAS, each day King County releases over one hundred thirty offenders
25 back into the community, and

26 WHEREAS, King County's Countywide Strategic Plan calls for the county to
27 provide a continuum of jail diversion programs, such as education and treatment, as well
28 as alternatives to secure detention to appropriate offenders, and

29 WHEREAS, King County participates in a number of collaborative and
30 coordinated bodies such as the criminal justice council, the regional, law, justice and
31 safety committee, the regional jail planning group and the mental illness and drug
32 dependency oversight committee, where strategies for preventing offender recidivism are
33 considered and developed, where regional criminal justice issues are discussed and which
34 may be utilized for a potential offender reentry task force, and

35 WHEREAS, King County is already offering effective reentry programs for
36 individuals with severe behavioral health needs through the criminal justice initiative.
37 The goals of the criminal justice initiative are to reduce the jail population and recidivism
38 by targeting specialized services to individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health
39 needs. With limited resources, the criminal justice initiative programs provide housing
40 support, assistance obtaining government benefits and treatment for cooccurring
41 disorders of chemical dependence and mental illness, and

42 WHEREAS, federal funding through the Second Chance Act and other potential
43 funding sources provide resource opportunities that would enable King County to build
44 upon existing successful programs, and

45 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice reports that over two-thirds
46 of jail inmates are repeat offenders, having been admitted and released from jail at least
47 once before, and

48 WHEREAS, many of the individuals released from jail face the same problems
49 leaving jail as they did upon entry, including poverty, unemployment, homelessness and
50 mental illness or chemical dependency, or both, and

51 WHEREAS, when released jail inmates face many obstacles to obtaining
52 legitimate and stable employment due to low levels of education, limited work history,
53 limited vocational skills and prohibitions against hiring workers with criminal histories,
54 and

55 WHEREAS, lack of education is a major obstacle to employment and sixty
56 percent of jail inmates in the United States lack a high school diploma or its equivalent,
57 and

58 WHEREAS, these barriers to successful community integration should be
59 addressed to reduce the probability that a released individual will reoffend, and

60 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2010, \$114 million was appropriated for prisoner
61 reentry programs in the United States Department of Justice, including \$14 million for
62 reentry initiatives in the Federal Bureau of Prisons and \$100 million for Second Chance
63 Act grant programs, and

64 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2010, the United States Department of Labor was
65 appropriated \$108,493,000 for prisoner reentry programs, including \$15 million for a
66 transitional jobs grant program, and

67 WHEREAS, on February 1, 2010, the federal Office of Management and Budget
68 released the President's budget for fiscal year 2011, which includes \$100 million for
69 Second Chance Act grant programs administered by the United States Department of
70 Justice;

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

72 A. The departments of community and human services and adult and juvenile
73 detention along with public health, superior court, district court, the prosecuting attorney,
74 the sheriff's office and the public defender are requested, with assistance from council
75 staff, to develop and submit for council acceptance, a strategic plan for offender reentry
76 from jail facilities and community corrections programs in King County.

77 B. The strategic plan for offender reentry will guide county policies and services
78 for individuals transitioning from jail to community living with the goal of reducing
79 recidivism and improving public safety. The plan should include a mission statement for
80 ex-offender reentry, a set of policy goals and implementation schedule.

81 C. The drafting process should include stakeholder outreach to municipalities in
82 King County that operate jail facilities, with an invitation to those municipalities to
83 participate in the reentry strategic planning process and participate on the reentry task
84 force.

85 D. The strategic plan for offender reentry should include a reentry task force to
86 oversee the implementation of the strategic plan.

87 E. Guided by the common vision outlined in the plan, county stakeholders should
88 seek funding to implement new programs and services.

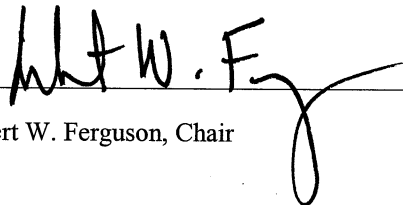
89 F. By February 1, 2011, the executive shall transmit a motion to the council, for
90 council review and acceptance by motion.

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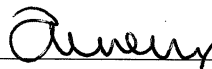
Motion 13279 was introduced on 7/12/2010 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 7/26/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Drago, Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett,
Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None