



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 14, 2002

Motion 11425

Proposed No. 2002-0134.2

Sponsors Hague, Edmonds and Lambert

1 A MOTION requesting the executive to examine and
2 identify, in consultation with the King County district
3 court, possible areas for expansion of the court's work crew
4 program to include program alternatives that could provide
5 for certain maintenance services to temporarily closed
6 parks.

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9 WHEREAS, King County faces continuing current expense fund deficits, on the
10 order of fifty million dollars for 2003, because of declining revenues and increasing
11 governmental expenses, and

12 WHEREAS, addressing the continuing deficits have led to the elimination of a
13 number of King County programs and services in 2002 and similar reductions are
14 projected for 2003. King County began the winter closure of forty-four parks on January
15 1, 2002 in response to budget cuts caused by a shortfall in general fund tax revenue, and

16 WHEREAS, These King County parks will be closed during 2002 for the months
17 of January, February, November and December. The closed parks are located throughout

18 much of the urban area of King County. During the closure, all facilities at the parks will
19 be closed, including restrooms, and some amenities will be removed, such as swings. All
20 activities at the parks have been cancelled, including games and practices on athletic
21 fields, and

22 WHEREAS, On February 25, the King County executive announced that twenty
23 of these parks will remain closed throughout the year. The closed parks are located
24 throughout much of the urban unincorporated area of King County, and

25 WHEREAS, In addition, mid-year budget reductions were announced that will
26 eliminate the annual Heritage Festival at Marymoor Park, playground and pre-school
27 programs and further decrease maintenance of parks countywide. Park user fees are also
28 proposed to be increased ten to twenty percent, and

29 WHEREAS, The council required, as part of addressing escalating costs, that the
30 district court develop plans for alternative sentencing to dentention. The district court has
31 identified the efficacy of expanding offender work crews as a sanction and a way for
32 offenders to reduce their fines. Additionally, the court identified that their existing pilot
33 work crews provided needed services to the community that maintain facilities and saved
34 taxpayer dollars, and

35 WHEREAS, The district court has identified hundreds of offenders with driving
36 offenses that are currently using valuable court and jail time that would otherwise be
37 eligible for work crew, and

38 WHEREAS, The district court pilot work crew program provided services that
39 collected trash, mowed and weeded, and provided a variety of other maintenance services

40 to local governments that parallel what is needed for those parks closed as a consequence
41 of budget restraints, and

42 WHEREAS, The district court has identified that the expansion of the work crew
43 program would save current expense monies in the district court, the jail, prosecutor,
44 public defense and other taxpayers' moneys for law enforcement, and

45 WHEREAS, The council has identified that resources are not otherwise available
46 for closed parks;

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the council of King County:

48 The executive is requested to examine and identify, in consultation with the King
49 County district court, possible areas for expansion of the court's work crew program to
50 include program alternatives that could provide for certain maintenance services to
51 temporarily closed parks. The executive and the district court are further requested to
52 recommend to the council as soon as possible, but no later than July 15, 2002, any

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53 proposals to address expansion of the work crew program that could provide such
54 alternative services for parks maintenance.
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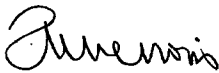
Motion 11425 was introduced on 3/18/2002 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/13/2002, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz,
Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr.
Irons and Ms. Patterson
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Mr. von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None