



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 3, 2005

Motion 12116

Proposed No. 2005-0207.1

Sponsors Patterson

1 A MOTION urging Congress to provide full funding for
2 housing, economic development and human services
3 programs in the United States Department of Housing and
4 Urban Development through the Community Development
5 Block Grant program, Section 8 housing vouchers and local
6 public housing authorities.

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9 WHEREAS, , the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") program,
10 enacted into law in 1974, is the principal federal program providing grants to states,
11 cities, and towns to devise neighborhood approaches for improving the physical,
12 economic and social conditions that exist in their communities, and

13 WHEREAS, the CDBG program provides King County with over twenty-four
14 million dollars annually and leverages additional resources to support vital programs and
15 services such as food, shelter, housing, health services, child care and employment,
16 which meet the needs of this county's most vulnerable residents, including seniors, people

17 with disabilities and families, enabling them to meet their critical housing and human
18 services needs, and

19 WHEREAS, King County and its cities have utilized CDBG allocations for
20 numerous housing related programs including housing development, shelter, homeless
21 prevention, home repair, access modifications and housing services, and

22 WHEREAS, King County and its cities have utilized CDBG allocations for
23 human services such as child care, health care, domestic violence services, senior
24 services, youth services, recreation, employment, counseling, emergency services and
25 emergency food, and

26 WHEREAS, King County and its cities have utilized CDBG allocations for public
27 improvements including water systems, sidewalks and other public infrastructure in low-
28 and moderate-income neighborhoods and improved access to public infrastructure for
29 persons with disabilities by removal of architectural barriers, and

30 WHEREAS, King County and its cities have utilized CDBG allocations for
31 acquisition and rehabilitation of senior centers, youth centers, neighborhood facilities,
32 child care centers, health facilities and historic preservation including technical assistance
33 and contract management for community facility projects such as roof replacement,
34 heating and electrical improvements and handicapped accessibility for community
35 facilities to aid in their delivery of social service programs to low and moderate-income
36 clients, and

37 WHEREAS, starting in 2002 the federal government began reducing funding for
38 CDBG funds allocated to state and local governments, a trend that has caused concern for

39 state and local agencies that are able to utilize the funding for important community
40 projects, and

41 WHEREAS, the elimination of the CDBG program or significant reduction in
42 funding of this program would have dire consequences for the county's low- and
43 moderate-income residents and the quality of life for all residents, and

44 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has signaled its intentions to preserve the
45 CDBG program by including amendments in the Senate and House of Representatives
46 budget resolutions, but has not concluded the budget process and is contemplating
47 reducing the overall budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development by as
48 much as eleven percent, and

49 WHEREAS, reductions in federal allocations to public housing authorities and
50 federal rule changes are already forcing local housing authorities for the first time in
51 decades, to reduce the number of families they serve, and

52 WHEREAS, the federal office of management and budget has projected a thirty
53 percent reduction in funding for the Housing Choice Voucher program, more commonly
54 known as the Section 8 program, over the next five years, and

55 WHEREAS, the Section 8 program serves over fifteen thousand households in
56 King County and more than fifty-two thousand people in Seattle and King County
57 receive rental assistance through public housing or Section 8 housing programs, yet over
58 ten thousand people remain on waiting lists for vouchers, and

59 WHEREAS, over forty-seven percent of Section 8 households are either elderly
60 or disable and the largest group of clients served by Section 8 is children, and

61 WHEREAS, local financial resources do not exist to provide an alternative source
62 of subsidy for these vital services, and

63 WHEREAS, progress in meeting the affordable housing needs of low- and
64 moderate-income households and initiating the region's ten year plan to end homelessness
65 will be jeopardized as core housing programs are affected by federal budget reductions,
66 thereby resulting in more homeless, not fewer, and

67 WHEREAS, it is significantly more cost-effective for local, state and federal
68 governments to ensure families and individuals have affordable housing choices and
69 therefore never enter the cycle of homelessness, and

70 WHEREAS, the ability of government to partner with local builders, rental
71 housing owners and nonprofit housing developers to provide affordable housing choices
72 in King County will be significantly reduced if there continue to be reductions in funding
73 for the CDBG program, Section 8 housing vouchers and public housing authorities;

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

75 The King County council respectfully urges the United States Congress to
76 preserve and maintain the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community
77 Development Block Grant ("CDBG") program by enacting a fiscal year 2006 budget and
78 appropriations package that funds CDBG formula grants at no less than four billion three
79 hundred fifty million dollars and preferably at four billion seven hundred million dollars
80 to restore the unwarranted cuts made to the program in fiscal year 2005.

81 Further, the King County council urges Congress to maintain CDBG funding

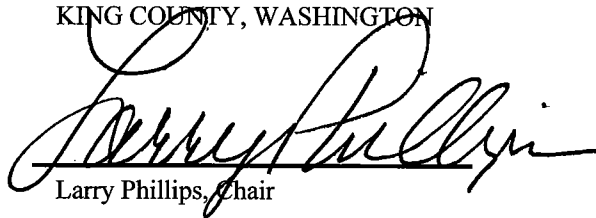
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82 while doing no harm to other critical housing programs including funding for Section 8
83 vouchers and public housing authorities.
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Motion 12116 was introduced on 5/2/2005 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/2/2005, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 4 - Mr. Pelz, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Hammond and Mr. Irons

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None