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BPM meeting

2005 20056

**King County District Court
Office of the Chief Presiding Judge**

W1034 King County Courthouse

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Seattle, Washington 98104

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The Honorable Corinna D. Ham,
Chief Presiding Judge

Tricia Crozier,
Chief Administrative Officer

March 29, 2005

HAND DELIVERED AND SENT VIA EMAIL

Chairperson Larry Gossett
Vice Chairperson Dow Constantine
Vice Chairperson Jane Hague
Councilmember Bob Ferguson
Councilmember Julia Patterson
Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

Budget and Fiscal Management Committee
King County Council
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

In June of 2004 the District Court became aware that King County Metro Transit was intending to surplus the Park-n-Ride property located to the west of the Regional Justice Center (RJC) in Kent.

Even if the Court had been aware of the proposal to surplus the property before 2004, it is doubtful that we would have had enough information at that time to know that an objection was appropriate. Specifically, we did not know until June of 2004 that the RJC parking garage could not be expanded because (1) the foundation was not designed so that it could support additional floors and (2) a taller parking garage causes security issues for the jail. We were also unaware that overflow parking to the east of the Regional Justice Center would be eliminated as a result of further development or that the overall pressure on parking in downtown Kent was going to increase as a result of massive new development in the area.

Parking at the Regional Justice Center has been inadequate for a very long time. A study done by King County Facilities in 1997 indicated that 100 additional parking spaces were already needed at that time. The need for parking has continued to grow since 1997 as the caseload, particularly with regard to Superior Court, has continued to increase at

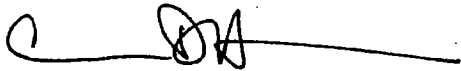
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the RJC. While no recent study has been done, the criminal justice agencies, prosecutors, public defenders, and others who regularly use the RJC would likely tell you that finding a parking space is a significant problem which will only get worse as the non-county owned offsite parking disappears to make room for developments that generate their own parking needs.

The District Court is not suggesting that a surplus or sale of the property may not ultimately be the right outcome; however, if the County intends to expand any of the operations at the RJC, it may become impossible to do so if the parking or other space needs cannot be met now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Corinna D. Harn,
Chief Presiding Judge
King County District Court

cc: Rebecha Cusack, Lead Staff Analyst King County Council
Carrie Cihak, Analyst, King County Council
Polly St. John, Analyst, King County Council
David Layton, Analyst, King County Council
William Nogle, Analyst, King County Council
Monica Clarke, Analyst, King County Council
Marilyn Cope, Analyst, King County Council
Janice Mansfield, Committee Assistant
Honorable Judge Barbara Linde, Assistant Presiding Judge
Honorable Judge David Admire, East Division Presiding Judge
Honorable Eileen Kato, West Division Presiding Judge
Honorable Judge Darrell Phillipson, South Division Presiding Judge
Tricia Crozier, Chief Administrative Officer
Kathy Brown, Director of Facilities, King County
Norm Maleng, King County Prosecutor
Honorable Richard Eadie, Presiding Judge, King County Superior Court
Sue Rahr, King County Sheriff