



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**November 10, 2009**

**Motion 13092**

**Proposed No.** 2009-0594.2

**Sponsors** Patterson, Ferguson, Constantine,  
Lambert, Hague and Phillips

1           A MOTION relating to the King County policy for the  
2           provision of animal services; establishing the policy and  
3           requesting the county executive to take actions necessary to  
4           implement the policy.

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6           WHEREAS, for the last two and one-half years, King County has worked  
7           diligently to find the best way to provide high-quality, humane care and control services  
8           for animals, including high adoption rates and low euthanasia rates, and

9           WHEREAS, an advisory committee was reconstituted and presented a report, two  
10          consultant studies were completed and approximately one million dollars in supplemental  
11          funding for animal shelter staffing, equipment and supplies was provided in 2008, and

12          WHEREAS, the King County general fund has historically supported animal  
13          shelter and control services for certain cities through discretionary contracts for services  
14          at a cost of approximately two million dollars per year, and

15          WHEREAS, King County is facing an ongoing financial crisis and does not have  
16          a sufficient, stable source of revenue to continue to manage and maintain the animal  
17          services at a level which would result in King County providing a model program, and

18 WHEREAS, King County has performed a diligent evaluation and analysis of  
19 alternative ways to provide humane animal shelter services for the county and cities that  
20 contract with the county for shelter services, and King County has determined that  
21 successful alternative models are available and warrant further exploration, evaluation  
22 and potential implementation, and

23 WHEREAS, in 2003, the budget advisory task force made a number of  
24 recommendations regarding county finances including a policy that King County should  
25 be "Ensuring that discretionary service contracts provide full cost recovery to the county  
26 including overhead, operation and capital costs," and

27 WHEREAS, on October 13, 2003, the King County council approved Motion  
28 11820 establishing the policy that all county discretionary contracts shall be full-cost  
29 recovery, and

30 WHEREAS, the 2009 King County Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 16312,  
31 included a finding setting the policy direction that "King County shall continue to explore  
32 the community-based services model as defined by the Operational Master Plan," and

33 WHEREAS, the King County auditor's office recently conducted an audit of  
34 animal shelter and control services provided by King County's records and licensing  
35 services division. The audit findings regarding management include, "...inconsistent  
36 leadership, shifts in management direction, and sustained organizational uncertainty have  
37 limited ACC's [Animal Care and Control's] ability to make needed improvements in  
38 population monitoring and management and to use technology effectively to improve  
39 shelter operations ....," and

40 WHEREAS, King County values the employees who perform animal shelter and  
41 control services and encourages contract cities and other organizations to consider them  
42 in providing animal services in the future;

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

44 The executive is requested to take all actions necessary to effect the following  
45 outcomes:

46 A. End the provision of animal shelter services by King County for contract cities  
47 and for unincorporated King County as soon as possible but no later than January 31,  
48 2010;

49 B. Establish a goal of April 1, 2010, to end the provision of animal control  
50 services for contract cities under the terms of current contracts by and encourage  
51 individual cities to enter into full-cost-recovery contracts with King County for animal  
52 control services;

53 C. Establish a firm deadline of June 30, 2010, to end the provision of animal  
54 control services for contract cities unless individual cities enter into full-cost-recovery  
55 contracts with King County for animal control services;

56 D. Establish a goal of April 1, 2010, to end the provision of pet licensing services  
57 for contract cities under the terms of current contracts and encourage individual cities to  
58 enter into full-cost-recovery contracts with King County for pet licensing services;

59 E. Establish a firm deadline of June 30, 2010, to end the provision of pet  
60 licensing services for contract cities unless individual cities enter into full-cost-recovery  
61 contracts with King County for pet licensing services;

62 F. Cities that choose to enter into full-cost-recovery contracts with King County  
63 for pet licensing services shall be responsible for setting their own pet license fees;

64 G. King County will continue to provide animal control services and pet  
65 licensing services for unincorporated King County;

66 H. King County will work cooperatively and actively with its city partners to  
67 ensure a smooth transition in the care of animals;

68 I. Starting immediately, King County will actively work with contract cities to  
69 establish a countywide animal response team to prepare for the event of a disaster, based  
70 on the best standards, practices and concepts of operations established by the Pierce  
71 county animal response team; and

72 J. Conduct a study and make recommendations to the King County council by  
73 March 31, 2010, on alternatives for animal control services in unincorporated King  
74 County. The study should examine, but not be limited to, the following elements:

75 1. An analysis of revenues, expenditures and business activities necessary to  
76 meet the county's mandatory animal control responsibilities as required by state law.  
77 This analysis should include an evaluation of the potential effects and outcomes of  
78 implementing models used in other metropolitan areas including Multnomah county,  
79 Oregon;

80 2. An analysis and presentation of historical records on pet license revenues  
81 from unincorporated areas as well as historical cost estimates to provide animal control  
82 services for unincorporated areas; and

83 3. Presentation of potential options to provide animal control services in  
84 unincorporated areas that are fully supported by animal license fee revenues or other

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85 revenue generating options that do not involve general fund support. This element should  
86 include a staffing analysis.

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Motion 13092 was introduced on 10/26/2009 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/9/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Dunn

No: 0


Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None