

05/04/09 Council Mta.

**S1**

mlm

Sponsor: *L. Gossett*  
Larry Gossett  
Proposed No.: 2009-0265

*Lg MOVED PASSED 7-0 RD/JH Ex.*

1 **STRIKING AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2009-0265, VERSION 1**

2 On page 1, line5, delete everything through page 9 line 163 and insert

3 "WHEREAS, under the King County charter, the county council is the policy  
4 determining body and adopts budgets for King County government, and

5 WHEREAS, the executive under the charter carries out policy as set by the  
6 council and presents budgets and a budget message setting forth the programs that the  
7 executive proposes for the county during the next fiscal year, and

8 WHEREAS, the council over the years has provided policy direction to the  
9 executive to be reflected in the proposed budget, including initiatives such as the juvenile  
10 and adult justice operational master plans, realignment of the district court system,  
11 expansion of drug and mental health courts, development of framework policies for  
12 human services, establishment of the nearshore habitat conservation initiative and  
13 creation of the cultural development authority, the property expert review task force, the  
14 citizens election oversight committee, the office of information resource management, the  
15 county's annexation and children's health initiatives and the public health operational  
16 master plan, and

17           WHEREAS, the council has been a leader in promoting performance management  
18 in King County and adopted Motion 11561 in 2002 encouraging the executive to broaden  
19 the use of performance measurement throughout county government as a way of  
20 enhancing management of scarce resources and demonstrating accountability, and

21           WHEREAS, through adoption of Ordinance 16202, in July 2008, the council  
22 created a countywide performance and accountability system, which will increase  
23 transparency and accountability through better reporting of county performance, and

24           WHEREAS, over the last several budget years, the council has increased its role  
25 in the oversight and accountability of capital project management by including  
26 requirements for increased transparency in capital project reporting and through the  
27 creation of the office of capital project oversight, and

28           WHEREAS, the council has consistently sought citizen input in the development  
29 of its budget priorities through such efforts as public meetings, citizen boards and  
30 commissions, the countywide community forums and the citizen engagement initiative,  
31 which collected the views of hundreds of county residents on how the county should  
32 prioritize spending, and

33           WHEREAS, in both 2006, 2007 and 2008 the council has adopted budget priority  
34 motions, which have been forwarded to the county executive for use in formulating the  
35 executive's budget proposal, and

36           WHEREAS, in delivering his 2009 budget address, the executive informed the  
37 council that the county would be facing significant deficits, beginning with a ninety-three  
38 million dollars deficit in 2009 and growing in future years, and

39 WHEREAS, the current projected deficit for 2010 is approaching fifty million  
40 dollars, and

41 WHEREAS, the budget instructions for agencies to use in preparing their 2010  
42 budgets included eleven percent cuts for general fund mandated services, and

43 WHEREAS, the growth in county revenues has been restricted by state-wide  
44 voter-approved measures, including Initiative 747 and the subsequent enactment of it by  
45 the state legislature; and

46 WHEREAS, this restriction, which limits the growth in the county property tax  
47 levy to 1 percent annually plus new construction - a rate of growth that is insufficient to  
48 meet the increasing costs of providing services due to inflation and population growth -  
49 has resulted in a structural gap whereby the structure of the tax system generates a  
50 persistent shortfall in the revenues needed to maintain public services; and

51 WHEREAS, other major sources of county revenues, are limited by the health of  
52 the economy, such as sales and real estate excise taxes, and

53 WHEREAS, this is not the first time that the public finance system in this state  
54 has adversely affected public safety services; the council, in prior efforts to balance the  
55 budget, cut in excess of one hundred million dollars from the general fund and has made  
56 decisions including transferring swimming pools and local parks to other jurisdictions  
57 and shifting the burden for regional parks and recreation services to special levies in an  
58 effort to avoid further reductions to public safety services, and

59 WHEREAS, whenever possible, the county council prefers consultation and  
60 partnerships for regional services that impact cities, and

61 WHEREAS, King County has implemented special revenue programs like the  
62 mental illness and drug dependency sales tax and the veterans and human services levy to  
63 address human services needs, and

64 WHEREAS, while these new revenues have addressed specific funding needs,  
65 they have not addressed the structural nature of public funding for basic services in  
66 Washington counties;

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

68 A. The council is committed to using the resources available to county  
69 government to support a vibrant, growing King County that honors and respects the  
70 values of its citizens.

71 B. The council recognizes that there are many challenges facing the county that  
72 will make decision-making in the 2010 budget difficult. There continues to be a  
73 widening structural gap between the cost of continuing current services and revenues  
74 available to support these services. The funding gap continues to be exacerbated by a  
75 decline in state and federal resources that the county receives. At the same time, county  
76 service needs continue to increase. Given these challenges, the council intends that the  
77 adopted 2010 budget will be one that addresses the following major issues:

78 1. Sheriff: The executive is encouraged to identify sufficient funding for patrol  
79 and law enforcement activities necessary to maintain public safety in the unincorporated  
80 areas and the region as a whole. The executive is further encouraged to identify  
81 sufficient funding to provide needed equipment necessary for the sheriff's office to carry  
82 out its regional emergency services role;

83           2. District court: The county council will endeavor to adopt a budget that  
84 continues support for the vital mental health court that addresses legal problems for  
85 individuals whom would be more appropriately dealt with by mental health professionals  
86 than incarceration. Also, the executive is encouraged to continue implementation of the  
87 district court staffing study. Finally, the executive is encourage to continue capital  
88 funding for planning needs at the Bellevue and Kent court facilities;

89           3. Superior court and judicial administration: The county council will strive to  
90 adopt a budget that preserves the vital drug diversion court that addresses legal problems  
91 for individuals who most appropriately are dealt with through the drug court's  
92 programming as opposed to incarceration. The executive is encouraged to identify  
93 funding to sustain juvenile justice operational master plan programs in juvenile court  
94 services and identify capital support for the family and juvenile court facilities planning  
95 and regional justice center planning;

96           4. Public defense: The county council will strive to adopt a budget that  
97 identifies sufficient funding to provide effective public defender services for the near-  
98 indigent consistent with the county's adopted public defense payment model;

99           5. Prosecuting attorney: The executive is encouraged to identify funding  
100 sufficient to support the criminal division implementation of more efficient felony case  
101 processing and replacement of the prosecutor's management information system  
102 (PROMIS) information systems;

103           6. Public health: The executive is encouraged to propose a budget that  
104 maintains public health as a core value of the county, is consistent with the policies, goals  
105 and strategies adopted in the public health operational master plan, moves towards the

106 adoption of a stable and predictable county contribution to the health care safety net and  
107 prioritizes programs that are most effective in reducing involvement in the criminal  
108 justice system. Further, where possible, fee-based regulatory services should be full cost  
109 recovery; and

110           7. Human services: The executive is encouraged to propose a budget that  
111 maintains the core human services safety net programs that provide critical, life savings  
112 services, as demand for these services continues as economic conditions worsen.  
113 Because homelessness is a leading factor in jail recidivism and overuse of crisis services  
114 like emergency rooms, detox and sobering centers, support for programs that prevent or  
115 reduce homelessness should be pursued. Because domestic violence and sexual assault  
116 are primary causes of homelessness and physical and mental trauma for women and  
117 children, programs that assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault should be  
118 prioritized. The executive is encouraged to propose a budget that better coordinates and  
119 integrates public health and human service programs in order to maximize the public's  
120 investment.

121           8. Adult and juvenile detention: The executive is encouraged to identify  
122 sufficient funds in the proposed budget to continue the programs created by the adult and  
123 juvenile justice operational master plans that have been proven to save the county money  
124 and achieving better outcomes for those individuals that come in contact with the  
125 criminal justice system. Further, the executive is encouraged to identify funding to  
126 continue the regional integrated jail project and support for housing options for youth as  
127 an alternative to secure detention;

128           9. Transportation: King County continues to hold the principal goal of improving  
129 transportation options and providing greater mobility for people, vehicles and freight as a  
130 long-term ideal. Where reductions in roads services division maintenance, operations or  
131 construction are needed, choices should be measured against impact on achieving this  
132 goal. In response to the recession-induced loss of revenue for transit, a collaborative  
133 process, including the council, executive branch, customers and stakeholders, should be  
134 undertaken to guide the difficult choices between how much transit service is delivered  
135 and how that service is delivered to the customers;

136           10. Solid waste management: The executive shall manage solid waste division  
137 expenditures within the adopted 2008-2010 rate structure for the utility, and shall  
138 endeavor to extend service contracts with the cities through at least 2048, while  
139 continuing the reconstruction of the Bow Lake and Factoria transfer stations as scheduled  
140 and completing a strategic plan to add near-term disposal capacity to the regional system;

141           11. Water and land resources: Absent approval of new revenue authority as  
142 called for in the county's state legislative agenda, the water and land resources division  
143 should work with the council and the office of management and budget to identify policy  
144 options for addressing the loss of revenue. This approach should include:

145           a. a constructive budgeting exercise to identify the key components of  
146 achieving the division's mission;

147           b. a review of existing revenue options available to the county;

148           c. the use of a transparent mechanism to communicate with stakeholders; and

149           d. the engagement of policymakers in the choices between reducing or

150 eliminating these programs;

151           12. Parks and recreation: Absent approval of new revenue authority as called  
152 for in the county's state legislative agenda, the parks and recreation division should work  
153 with the council and the office of management and budget to identify policy options for  
154 the closure of local parks in potential annexation areas. This approach should include:  
155           a. a cost benefit analysis of the cost of closure;  
156           b. provisions to protect the security of parks facilities while closed; and  
157           c. the potential conversion of certain parks facilities within potential  
158 annexation areas to regional parks;  
159           C. The council supports a legislative agenda that urges the governor and state  
160 legislature to permanently address the structural funding gap facing all counties in  
161 Washington state by authorizing expanded types of revenues for local jurisdictions that  
162 provide for sufficient growth to meet rising annual costs and have the flexibility of  
163 helping to fund basic public services.  
164

**EFFECT:    Makes minor technical corrections and clarifies that solid waste contracts with the cities cannot be unilaterally extended by the County.**