



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15644

Proposed No. 2020-0192.2

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION requesting the county treasurer to provide for
2 payment agreements for 2020 property taxes.

3 WHEREAS, on January 21, 2020, the Washington state Department of Health
4 confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") in the United States in
5 Snohomish County. COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or
6 death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had
7 not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person,
8 and

9 WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Washington state governor proclaimed
10 that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the state of Washington as a result of
11 the COVID-19 pandemic, and

12 WHEREAS, the King County executive issued a proclamation of emergency on
13 March 1, 2020, in order to allow King County to quickly respond to the new or different
14 demands on service in response to the emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,
15 and

16 WHEREAS, in March 2020, the state and the county instituted "stay-at-home"
17 orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19 that closed all businesses except defined
18 essential businesses, resulting in historic unemployment, and

19 WHEREAS, RCW 84.56.020 requires one-half of property taxes, or first-half

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20 taxes, to be paid on or before the thirtieth day of April, and the remainder, or second-half
21 taxes, on or before the following thirty-first of October, and requires delinquent taxes to
22 be subject to interest and penalties, and

23 WHEREAS, RCW 84.56.020 authorizes the county treasurer, during a state of
24 emergency declared under RCW 43.060.010, to grant extensions of the due date of
25 property taxes at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, and the King
26 County treasurer has granted an extension to June 1, 2020, for first-half taxes;

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

28 A. The council requests that the county treasurer engage in a COVID-19 property
29 tax payment and compliance effort to promote payment agreements for 2020 taxpayers
30 affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as follows:

31 1. The county treasurer should identify those who were delinquent as of June 2,
32 2020, and perform outreach and communication to promote delinquent tax payment
33 programs, which can help taxpayers mitigate the financial impacts of COVID-19;

34 2. The payment agreements should be provided to taxpayers whose household
35 incomes have declined or who have faced financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19
36 pandemic; and

37 3. The county treasurer is requested to consider the feasibility of waiving or
38 subsidizing third-party vendor fees as part of the program to implement payment
39 agreements for those whose household income has declined or have faced financial
40 hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

41 B. The county treasurer is requested to transmit to the council a report on the
42 utilization of the program. The report should be filed no later than April 1, 2021, in the

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43 form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall
44 retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the chief of staff
45 and the chief policy officer.
46

Motion 15644 was introduced on 5/26/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/23/2020, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Upthegrove, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

Claudia Balducci

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Pedroza

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None