



**Signature Report**

**September 12, 2006**

**Motion 12335**

**Proposed No.** 2006-0391.1

**Sponsors** Ferguson, Phillips, Dunn,  
Patterson and Constantine

1           A MOTION calling for a detailed evaluation of funding  
2           options, debt capacity, security and operational impacts,  
3           and access to the courthouse by all branches of King  
4           County government and their employees, jurors and the  
5           general public of capital improvements to renovate and  
6           reopen the south entrance to the King County Courthouse  
7           and for the potential closure of the east and west entrances  
8           of the courthouse.

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11           WHEREAS, historically, the primary entrance to the King County Courthouse  
12           was on the south side of the building in the area that currently functions as the loading  
13           dock to the courthouse, adjacent to City Hall park, and

14           WHEREAS, the city of Seattle is currently undertaking a project titled "City Hall  
15           Park Restoration Project" with the goal of transforming City Hall park into an attractive  
16           gateway to downtown Seattle, and

17 WHEREAS it is a common goal of all branches of King County government  
18 using the courthouse and the City of Seattle to improve the safety, cleanliness, and  
19 usefulness of City Hall park, and

20 WHEREAS, improvements to City Hall park would make little sense without a  
21 reopening of the courthouse south entrance, and

22 WHEREAS, reopening of the south entrance would physically integrate the  
23 downtown King County campus, encouraging way-finding between the courthouse, new  
24 county office building, King County administration building and the Yesler building, and

25 WHEREAS, the King County council has formally adopted Motion 11196  
26 establishing a limit on the use of current expense fund revenues for debt service by  
27 requiring that annual debt service payments shall not exceed five percent of the current  
28 expense fund's net revenue available for debt service, and

29 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the county to pursue all funding options  
30 for the south entrance project in order to minimize the impact on the limited current  
31 expense fund debt service capacity, and

32 WHEREAS, the reopened south entrance would require both security staffing and  
33 equipment but the potential closure of the east and west entrances may mitigate or offset  
34 these security costs, and could potentially fund the debt service for reopening the south  
35 entrance, and

36 WHEREAS, the use by the public of the reopened south entrance will be affected  
37 by whether one or both of the east and west entrances are closed and the impacts to  
38 public access of both the reopened south entrance and the potential closure of the east and  
39 west entrances must be understood, and

40 WHEREAS, the reopening of the south entrance and the potential closure of the  
41 east and west entrances would impact all branches of King County government, including  
42 the elected officials and staff of the King County sheriff, the King County council,  
43 superior court, district court and the prosecuting attorney as well as jurors and the general  
44 public and therefore outreach and consultation with all of these groups and the public is  
45 needed prior to any final decision about reopening the south entrance and closing the east  
46 and west entrances, and

47 WHEREAS, while immediate funding of the south entrance design work is  
48 prudent and appropriate, King County should not proceed to construction of the south  
49 entrance until a detailed study of the identified issues of funding, debt capacity, security  
50 and operational impacts and access to the courthouse by all branches of King County  
51 government and their employees, jurors and the general public;

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

53 The county executive shall prepare a report that evaluates impacts to courthouse  
54 access and funding and operational options for the reopening and renovation of the  
55 courthouse south entrance and the potential closure of the east and west entrances,  
56 including, but not limited to, grant funding, one-time revenues associated with surplus  
57 sale of real property, and operational costs and potential savings. The report shall also  
58 include an evaluation of access impacts to all branches of King County government and  
59 their employees, as well as jurors and the general public and the results of outreach to  
60 each of these groups. The county executive shall transmit and the council shall adopt a  
61 motion containing this report and these recommendations prior to the appropriation or

Motion 12335

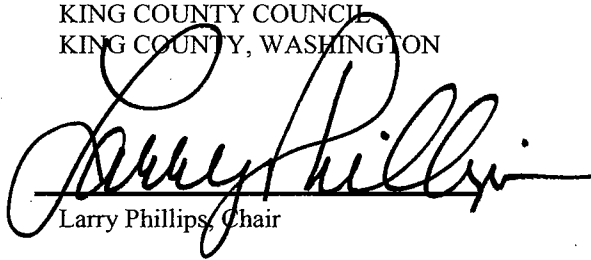
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62 expenditure of construction funds for capital improvements to renovate and reopen the  
63 south courthouse entrance and potentially close the east and west entrances.  
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Motion 12335 was introduced on 8/28/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/11/2006, by the following vote:

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments      None