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March 28, 2011

ma Sponsor: Gossett
Proposed No.: 2011-0135
~~2001-0135~~

1 **STRIKING AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2011-0135, VERSION 1**

2 On page 1, beginning on line 5, strike everything through page 4, line 56, and insert:

3 "WHEREAS, public employees at all levels of government provide essential
4 public services, without which societal life as enjoyed by the residents of King County
5 would be greatly diminished, and

6 WHEREAS, public employees include doctors, nurses, firefighters, teachers,
7 police, social workers, laborers and many other professions, and

8 WHEREAS, public employees provide services that are generally not profitable
9 for the private sector to provide, and public employees provide critical services such as
10 health care to individuals who would otherwise not be able to afford them, and

11 WHEREAS, public employees are often members of unions and Washington state
12 has recognized the importance and value of laws that ensure workplace safety, the right
13 to bargain collectively and the voters of Washington approved the most progressive
14 minimum wage law in the nation, and

15 WHEREAS, public employees are a significant part of the middle class and an
16 essential component of a strong, democratic society, and

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17 WHEREAS, King County has more than thirteen thousand employees, many of
18 whom are union members, who are dedicated to providing excellent customer service and
19 who are highly skilled in their trades or professions, and

20 WHEREAS, public employees throughout the nation and in King County have
21 lost their jobs and have voluntarily accepted reduced wages as a way to maintain the level
22 of public services during this "Great Recession," and

23 WHEREAS, around the country and in King County, labor leaders and their union
24 members have stepped forward to voluntarily participate in wage and benefit reductions,
25 furloughs and other cost-saving measures to preserve the jobs of their fellow employees
26 and assist in managing the impacts of the recession on governmental budgets, and have
27 developed creative ways to reduce costs and increase efficiencies, and

28 WHEREAS, King County employees in particular stepped forward in 2009 and
29 volunteered for unpaid furlough days, in 2010 county employees did a mix of unpaid
30 furlough days and forewent cost-of-living adjustments and in 2011 employees again
31 volunteered to forego cost-of-living adjustments in order to preserve the jobs of their
32 fellow employees and to preserve service levels for the public, yet King County still had
33 to eliminate over six hundred thirty-five jobs cumulatively during 2010 and 2011, and

34 WHEREAS, all working men and women deserve honor and respect for the work
35 they do, including public employees, and King County will continue to partner with its
36 employees so they are empowered to perform their jobs efficiently and creatively with
37 high-quality customer service;

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

39 A. The council reaffirms its support for public employees and the services they
40 provide and the right of public employees to organize and to bargain collectively. The
41 council opposes any attempt to restrict or eliminate collective bargaining in the state of
42 Washington. Collective bargaining has evolved historically as an important
43 organizational tool and provides checks and balances for labor and management in the
44 workplace.

45 B. The council is committed to treating all of its employees fairly and with
46 respect and to bargaining in good faith with its represented public employees.

47 C. The council declares Monday, March 28, 2011, as Public Employee
48 Appreciation Day, and thereafter, every fourth Monday in March shall be Public
49 Employee Appreciation Day."

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51 **EFFECT: Eliminates references to events in other countries and states and adds a**
52 **reference to the historical evolution of collective bargaining.**