



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**September 24, 2007**

**Motion 12579**

**Proposed No.** 2007-0453.2

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

1                   A MOTION to establish a gang suppression unit within the  
2                   King County sheriff's office for purposes of reducing gang-  
3                   related crime and ensuring community safety.

4  
5                   WHEREAS, under the state Constitution, state law and county ordinance, the  
6                   King County sheriff's office is responsible for certain mandated regional and local law  
7                   enforcement services. Foremost among these responsibilities is that the sheriff's office is  
8                   the first response "police department" for all of King County's unincorporated areas and  
9                   for twelve cities through contracts. As a consequence, the sheriff provides direct law  
10                  enforcement services to over five hundred thirty-three thousand King County residents,  
11                  and

12                  WHEREAS, although county crime trends overall are stable and, for some crime  
13                  types have decreased, the county has seen a significant increase in crime related to gang  
14                  activity, and

15                  WHEREAS the sheriff's office reports that gang-related crime increased one  
16                  hundred sixty-five percent in 2006 over gang-related crime reported in 2005. In addition,  
17                  gang-related crime in the first quarter of 2007 has shown increases of over one hundred

18 forty percent compared to the same period last year suggesting that this type of crime is a  
19 long-term and growing public safety problem, and

20 WHEREAS, gang-related crime has a significant impact on communities because  
21 of the violent nature of the crimes and is also restricted to identifiable "gang members,"  
22 law enforcement agencies have used specialized units to suppress and eliminate gang  
23 activities within communities. The use of gang suppression units is considered a best  
24 practice with known positive results. The Seattle police department currently has a  
25 permanent gang unit, and

26 WHEREAS the sheriff's office has had a permanent gang unit, but budget issues  
27 forced the elimination of the unit several years ago, and

28 WHEREAS, the sheriff's office recognizes the need to address the gang crime  
29 problem within the county, the sheriff has reorganized existing resources to establish a  
30 gang suppression unit that works with other police agencies and the state department of  
31 corrections. Nevertheless, the resources used in the unit have been loaned from other  
32 units and other vital sheriff responsibilities are not being addressed;

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

34 It is the intent of the council that the sheriff's office have a gang suppression unit  
35 to ensure public safety so long as that funding does not jeopardize critical prevention,

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36 intervention and reentry assistance programs aimed at reducing gang involvement and  
37 criminal activity in King County.

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Motion 12579 was introduced on 9/4/2007 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/24/2007, by the following vote:

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

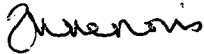
No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None