



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 8, 2014**

**Motion 14164**

**Proposed No. 2014-0158.3**

**Sponsors Phillips, Hague and Dembowski**

1           A MOTION establishing principles for the next  
2           management agreement governing the management and  
3           operation of Harborview Medical Center.

4           WHEREAS, Harborview Medical Center is owned by King County and governed  
5 by a board of trustees appointed by the King County council, and

6           WHEREAS, King County believes that strong and independent oversight of  
7 health care providers on the Harborview Medical Center campus is the key to  
8 maintaining this asset for future generations, and

9           WHEREAS, the Harborview Medical Center board of trustees has contracted with  
10 the University of Washington to operate the hospital since 1970, and

11           WHEREAS, it is King County's intent that the Harborview Medical Center  
12 remains an independent entity owned by King County and operated in a manner  
13 consistent with values and priorities appropriate for a public sector entity now and in the  
14 future, and

15           WHEREAS, the current agreement between the Harborview Medical Center  
16 board of trustees will expire on June 30, 2015;

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

18           The King County council establishes the following principles for the next  
19 management agreement governing the management and operation of Harborview  
20 Medical Center:

21           A. Commitment to Community: Harborview Medical Center is a public hospital  
22 with a primary mission of providing and teaching exemplary patient care through  
23 comprehensive health care for the indigent, sick, injured, infirm and most vulnerable  
24 residents of King County and the region. Harborview Medical Center shall continue to  
25 be operated in a manner consistent with this mission. Patients shall not be turned away  
26 on the basis of their ability to pay. The operator shall continue to operate a broad  
27 spectrum of primary care clinics on the property. Evaluation of potential operators shall  
28 include an assessment of commitment to the community and belief in the mission of  
29 Harborview Medical Center as a public hospital;

30           B. Governance: The management agreement shall ensure and support an  
31 independent and effective board of trustees and ensure that the board can fulfill its  
32 fiduciary obligations to King County residents. The management agreement shall assure  
33 that the board has the necessary resources to carry out these duties. The hospital shall be  
34 operated to achieve and fulfill the objectives established in K.C.C. 2.42.020, K.C.C.  
35 2.42.050, K.C.C. 2.42.060 and K.C.C. 2.42.090;

36           C. Financial Stewardship: Harborview Medical Center is owned by the people of  
37 King County. It is the responsibility of King County, the Harborview Medical Center  
38 board of trustees and the operator to maintain the facility in excellent condition for  
39 today's use and for that of future generations. The operator shall be evaluated on its  
40 commitment to fiscal transparency, financial support and professional management of the

41 property in such a way as to protect and maintain it for future generations and to provide  
42 social and economic benefits to King County;

43 D. Independence: Recognizing that health care is rapidly evolving and clinical  
44 and business alliances may be mutually beneficial and further the mission of Harborview  
45 Medical Center, these alliances must not lead to a loss of clinical or fiscal independence  
46 nor community recognition of Harborview Medical Center as an independent community  
47 hospital. The management agreement shall assure that Harborview Medical Center shall  
48 remain, and be recognized, as an organization independent of the selected operator;

49 E. Valuing Employees: The success of Harborview Medical Center as a premier  
50 health care institution depends upon its employees. The operator shall place a high  
51 priority on ensuring a positive relationship between management and employees.  
52 Evaluation of potential operators shall include an assessment of labor management  
53 policies and practices;

54 F. Environmental Stewardship: Harborview Medical Center shall be operated in  
55 a manner consistent with providing the highest quality of acute, primary and specialty  
56 care and supporting King County's environmental sustainability policies as outlined in the  
57 King County Comprehensive Plan and the Strategic Climate Action Plan. Consistent  
58 with Harborview Medical Center's commitment to providing the highest quality of care,  
59 the board of trustees and the operator shall adopt priorities for reducing climate pollution,  
60 reducing reliance upon nonrenewable energy, reducing the use of harmful chemicals,  
61 preparing for the effects of climate change on the environment, human health and the  
62 economy and minimizing an operational environmental footprint. These policies shall be  
63 adopted to safeguard and enhance King County's natural resources and environment; and

64           G. Fair and Just: King County serves all residents of King County by promoting  
65 fairness and opportunity and eliminating inequality. The Harborview Medical Center  
66 board of trustees and the management agreement shall assure that these principles are  
67 also assured at Harborview Medical Center. The board and the operator shall ensure  
68 access to affordable, appropriate and quality physical and behavioral health services,

69 support partnerships to deliver integrated and effective services and be a partner in  
70 joining with other local and regional partners to help stabilize and improve people's lives.  
71

Motion 14164 was introduced on 4/14/2014 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/7/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr.  
Upthegrove  
No: 0  
Excused: 0


KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None