



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**September 17, 2002**

**Motion 11533**

**Proposed No.** 2002-0426.2

**Sponsors** Phillips and Hague

1           A MOTION requesting the King County executive to  
2           participate in the U.S. Communities Government  
3           Purchasing Alliance.

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6           WHEREAS, King County's total 2002 budget is \$2.9 billion, and

7           WHEREAS, the county's 2002 current expense (CX) fund budget is \$493 million,

8           and

9           WHEREAS, the CX fund is experiencing a fiscal shortfall that is the result of

10          declining revenue growth and increasing governmental expenses, and

11          WHEREAS, King County is aggressively reviewing CX expenditures for

12          reductions, and

13          WHEREAS, King County reduced the CX fund budget by \$41 million in 2002

14          and faces continuing current expense fund deficits of \$50 million for 2003 and additional

15          reductions of \$30 million in 2004 and another \$30 million in 2005, for a total of \$151

16          million over four years, and

17           WHEREAS, the current expense fund budget for purchase of supplies totals  
18           nearly \$9 million annually and the county is budgeted to spend \$90 million on supplies  
19           purchases in total, supporting the wide range of regional and local services provided by  
20           the county, and

21           WHEREAS, the council and the executive consistently search for ways in which  
22           to provide services at the lowest possible cost, and

23           WHEREAS, U.S. Communities is a nonprofit agency that assists public agencies  
24           in reducing the cost of purchased goods through pooling the purchasing power of public  
25           agencies nationwide through a competitive bidding process, and

26           WHEREAS, the program now known as the U.S. Communities Government  
27           Purchasing Alliance was founded in 1991 and went national in 1996, and

28           WHEREAS, the U.S. Communities mission statement is "Public Purchasers  
29           Saving You Money," and

30           WHEREAS, U.S. Communities is sponsored by the National Association of  
31           Counties, the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, the National League of  
32           Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors, and

33           WHEREAS, U.S. Communities has a professional public purchasing advisory  
34           board consisting of public purchasing professionals from large public jurisdictions across  
35           the country, including the city of Seattle, and

36           WHEREAS, over five thousand public agencies in forty-eight states currently  
37           participate in the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, and

38           WHEREAS, there is no cost to participate in U.S. Communities Government  
39           Purchasing Alliance, and

40 WHEREAS, all U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance public  
41 agency contracts are nonexclusive, allowing participating agencies to purchase goods and  
42 services from other sources, and

43 WHEREAS, all U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance public  
44 agency contracts include language allowing any government agency to "piggyback" on  
45 the contract, and

46 WHEREAS, the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance offers  
47 Internet purchasing and electronic data interface, thereby improving the efficiency and  
48 effectiveness of the purchasing process, and,

49 WHEREAS, advocacy by U.S. Communities and the participation of public  
50 agencies in the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance reinforces the  
51 purchasing power of local governments nationwide, and

52 WHEREAS, chapter 39.34 RCW establishes the Interlocal Cooperation Act  
53 allowing local jurisdictions in the state of Washington to participate in cooperative  
54 purchasing programs such as that offered by U.S. Communities, and

55 WHEREAS, vendors participating in the U.S. Communities program make a  
56 commitment that U.S. Communities's pricing is the lowest available pricing (net to  
57 buyer) and that, if a local agency is eligible for lower pricing through a state, regional, or  
58 local contract, the vendor will match the pricing under the U.S. Communities program,  
59 and

60 WHEREAS, the types of goods available through the U.S. Communities  
61 Government Purchasing Alliance include office supplies, industrial supplies, office  
62 furniture, computers, telecommunications equipment, electrical and data communications

63 equipment, janitorial supplies, copy machines, wireless products and services and  
64 automotive supplies, and

65 WHEREAS, contracts through the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing  
66 Alliance offer discounts of up to eighty percent off of list prices for office supplies, forty-  
67 five percent off of list prices for office furniture and fifteen percent off of most local  
68 contracts for computers, and

69 WHEREAS, the city of Seattle, as a participant in the cooperative purchasing  
70 program and a U.S. Communities Advisory Board member, has saved significant  
71 amounts in both administrative and supplies costs through the program;

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

73 The executive is requested to immediately register for participation in the U.S.  
74 Communities Government Purchasing Alliance and to purchase goods through this  
75 program whenever cost-savings can be achieved and the purchase is consistent with other  
76 county purchasing policies. The executive is also requested to analyze the cost-savings  
77 potential of any contracts available through Educational Service Districts and to utilize  
78 these contracts if they are cost-effective and consistent with county purchasing policies.  
79 The executive is further requested to report back to the council by February 1, 2003, with

**Motion 11533**

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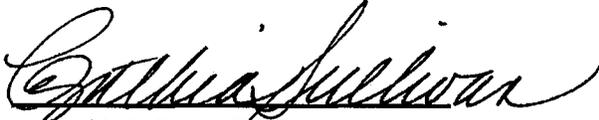
80 an update of the county's participation in these programs, including an estimate of the  
81 amount saved through participation in these programs.

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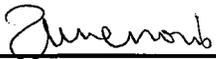
Motion 11533 was introduced on 9/3/2002 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/16/2002, by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Ms. Patterson  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Sims, County Executive

**Attachments**      None