



**King County**

**Ron Sims**

King County Executive

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CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

December 16, 2005

The Honorable Larry Phillips, Chair  
Metropolitan King County Council  
Room 1200  
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

I am signing Ordinance 15334, which makes net supplemental appropriations to various general fund agencies and non-general fund agencies, with the exception of a partial veto of language in Sections 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, and 15, that I am vetoing.

As originally proposed, Ordinance 15334 was intended to provide supplemental appropriations to county agencies necessary to assure the continuity of business operations in 2005. This included expenditures for fuel cost increases for several county agencies, necessary overtime costs, reimbursable work in the Roads Services Division, debt service on county debt, and to make certain technical corrections to the 2005 budget.

The Council has instead added \$3.8 million of Current Expense (CX) funds to various agencies and programs, almost all of which are outside of the operations of county government. This was done less than two weeks after the Council adopted a 2006 budget in which it stated that "*The metropolitan King County council, ... works throughout the year to bring down the cost of government and improve the effectiveness of services.*"

The budget went on to say "*Although the general fund will continue to face a structural gap for the foreseeable future, the size of the structural gap has been reduced as the local economy and revenue growth have recovered and the growth of expenditures has been reduced through the initiatives and policies that the council has set in place over the last several years. Over the next few years, one-time reserves will help the county to meet expected budget needs, such as the rising cost of health care and continued investments in technology .... The 2006 budget continues to implement long-standing financial policies that limit debt levels and maintain healthy general fund reserves.*"

The actions of the Council in adopting the increases in expenditures in Ordinance 15334 belie the commitment of the county to the very practices that resulted in the county receiving triple A debt ratings from all three of the major rating agencies: Standard & Poors, Moody's and



The Honorable Larry Phillips

December 16, 2005

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FitchRatings. As acknowledged by the Council in the 2006 adopted budget the establishment and maintenance of reserves is a critical and a necessary element in our ability to meet our longer term budget needs. Yet the Council's actions drain those very reserves to provide funding to agencies which are not a part of the county family.

Further, I am concerned that many of the Council's additions will create a "bow wave" that impacts the ongoing expenses of the county. Some of the additions are clearly one-time in nature, but many appear to at least build the expectation of permanent future funding from the county. While the county's current financial condition is able to provide funding for some programs of a one-time nature, now is not the time to add new programs and endanger the financial status we have achieved. Use of reserves to fund special programs not only sets future expectations, it also amounts to eating our seed corn – the resources we look to fund our essential services in the future.

As the Council knows, it is not uncommon and not unexpected that some additions to omnibus ordinances will be made by the Council. But the sheer magnitude of the additions made in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter omnibus ordinance makes the additions made in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter supplementals pale in comparison. In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter omnibus ordinance the Council added \$202,144 in CX expenses; in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter omnibus ordinance the Council added \$391,000; and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter omnibus ordinance the Council added \$258,000 -- a combined total of less than \$852,000. Yet in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter omnibus alone the Council added \$3,800,000 in new CX expenditures – almost four and one half times the amount in the first three quarter's ordinances combined. This is also substantially more than the \$1,594,300 the Council added for special programs in adopting the 2006 budget. The attached spreadsheet itemizes the additions made by the Council in each of the four quarterly omnibus ordinances. In aggregate, the Council added almost \$4.6 million in CX expenses to omnibus ordinances over the course of 2005 – almost none of which was made for county agencies.

I am also concerned that Council CX additions to the various omnibus ordinances are not subject to some public review through the Council's committee processes. None of the additions made in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter omnibus ordinance were discussed nor even identified in Council staff reports on the ordinance. Executive staff were only made aware of the additions in reviewing the committee striker ordinance. The public would have no reasonable way of knowing or having the ability to comment on the ordinance until after it was adopted by the Council. Such a practice does not help our efforts to make County processes and practices more transparent and open to the public.

Certain of the additions made by the Council in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter supplemental cause me concern. Several of the additions were made in allocations to agencies which were already included in my 2006 proposed budget and in the budget the Council adopted. While these additional funds may be justified, it is puzzling that the Council did not address the allocations to these agencies in considering the 2006 budget

The Honorable Larry Philips

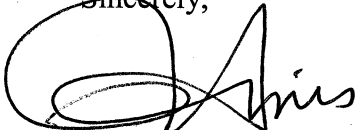
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The impact of Sections 6 and 14 of the adopted ordinance is to transfer \$1,855,000 to 4Culture for six named projects. I believe this approach is not appropriate. As my staff has reported to you, I strongly support the idea of asking 4Culture to help us develop criteria for assessing whether the county should make investments in community facilities and perhaps to conduct that assessment and make recommendations to the county on which of the many competing requests should be funded and at what levels. The Council's ordinance would simply give funding to 4Culture with direction as to how the money must be spent. This is an inappropriate role for 4Culture. 4Culture is an important agency in promoting and funding the various art, cultural, and heritage programs of the county, but contracting of county funds with outside agencies must be the responsibility of the county, not 4Culture.

For the reasons stated above, I am vetoing Sections 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, and 15 of Ordinance 15334. The rest of the ordinance I am returning to you with my approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sims". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "R" and a cursive "Sims".

Ron Sims  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Scott White, Chief of Staff  
          Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director  
          Rebecha Cusack, Lead Staff, BFM Committee  
          Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council  
Kurt Triplett, Chief of Staff, County Executive Office  
Bob Cowan, Director, Office of Management and Budget

**2005 Council Omnibus Ordinance Changes**  
**Children and Family Set-Aside - Community Services Division**

AGENCY	Adopted 2005 Budget Total	Change in 1st Qtr	Change in 2nd Qtr	Change in 3rd Qtr	Change in 4th Qtr	Change from Adopted 2005 Budget
4-H Association	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services*	\$54,282	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
ACAP Child and Family Services	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$10,000	\$12,500
Africa Youth United	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
African American Cultural Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
African American Elders Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$70,000
Akoben Brotherhood	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Alliance for Education	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,000	\$0	\$22,000
Asian & Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Auburn/Federal Way Boys and Girls Club	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Auburn High School PTA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400
Auburn Mountainview High School PTA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400
Auburn Performing Arts	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Auburn Youth Resources	\$143,809	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$5,000	\$9,900
Bridle Trails State Park Foundation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Central Area Senior Center	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Central House - Harder House	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Charles Young Enterprises, Inc.	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
City of Pacific - Senior Outreach	\$14,912	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Communities in Schools of Renton	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Community Health Centers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Conquest Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Contractors Resource Center	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Crimestoppers of Puget Sound	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Des Moines Legacy Foundation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Des Moines Lions	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Des Moines Kiwanis	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Des Moines Rotary	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
ELADS-Elder and Adult Day Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Eastside Domestic Violence Program	\$196,402	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Eastside Heritage Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Eastside Legal Assistance Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
El Centro de la Raza	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Executive Service Corps of Washington	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Federal Way Community Caregiving Network/FUSION	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,400	-\$2,400	\$2,500
Federal Way High School Foundation/Booster Club	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Federal Way High School District PTA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Federal Way Senior Center - Lakeland*	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$5,000	\$7,400
Fifth Avenue Theater Capital Campaign	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Foundation of the King	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Friends of Dahl Field	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Girl Scout Totem Council - Beyond Bars Program	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000

## 2005 Council Omnibus Ordinance Changes

AGENCY	Adopted 2005 Budget Total	Change in 1st Qtr	Change in 2nd Qtr	Change in 3rd Qtr	Change in 4th Qtr	Change from Adopted 2005 Budget
Hate Free Zone	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
HistoryLink	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Hopelink	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Issaquah Senior Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Juvenile Center Vision Assistance	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan (JJOMP)	\$224,545	-\$24,545	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$24,545
Kent Downtown Partnership	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Kent Historical Society	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Kent Sunrise Rotary	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Kilo Middle School PTA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Kent Valley Youth and Family Services*	\$166,709	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center	\$406,537	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Ke Washington Adult Day Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
Lazarus Center	\$0	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$35,000
League of Women Voters	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Maple Leaf Community Council	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Maple Valley Community Center*	\$79,291	\$1,189	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$1,189
Maple Valley Food Bank & Emergency Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Mercer Island Boys and Girls Club	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Mount Baker Community Club	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of Eastside*	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
New Futures - Reach Out	\$20,000	\$49,267	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$69,267
North Helpline*	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$70,000
North Seattle Family Center/Children's Home Society	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Northshore Performing Arts Center	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Northshore Youth and Family Services	\$115,451	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Northwest Black Pioneers	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
People Of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN)	\$98,256	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
Plateau Outreach Ministries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Racial Disparity Project	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Renton Area Youth and Family Services	\$170,092	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
Roxbury Medical Clinic	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Ruth Dykeman Children's Center	\$132,008	-\$49,267	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$49,267
Sanctuary Art Center	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Sea Mar Clinic	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45,000	\$45,000
Seattle Aquarium Water Quality Education Program	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
Seattle Mental Health	\$7,558	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Seattle Southside Visitors Services	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Sequoyah Middle School PTA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Shoreline Adult Day Health	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Shoreline YMCA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000
Southeast Youth and Family Services	\$36,099	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
South Pacific Islander Community Youth Services*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000
Southwest Little League	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000

## 2005 Council Omnibus Ordinance Changes

AGENCY	Adopted 2005 Budget Total	Change in 1st Qtr	Change in 2nd Qtr	Change in 3rd Qtr	Change in 4th Qtr	Change from Adopted 2005 Budget
Southwest Youth and Family Services*	\$36,099	\$21,000	\$9,000	\$0	-\$9,000	\$21,000
Springboard Alliance	\$0	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Springwood Youth Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
The Nature Consortium	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
The VERA Project	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Thomas Jefferson High School Foundation	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Thomas Jefferson High School Raider Parent Movement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Todd Beamer High School Foundation Parent Group	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Totem Middle School PTA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Tukwila Farmers' Market	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Ukrainian Community Center of Washington	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
University District Youth Center	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
shonBePrepared	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000
Washington/Maury Island Food Bank	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
VERA Project*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000
West Seattle Food Bank	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
White Center Food Bank	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Woodinville Senior Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$180,000	\$180,000
World Class Aquatics Foundation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Youth Eastside Services*	\$273,177	\$0	\$0	\$28,000	\$205,000	\$233,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$10,446,293</b>	<b>\$172,144</b>	<b>\$341,000</b>	<b>\$258,000</b>	<b>\$1,723,900</b>	<b>\$2,418,044</b>
<b>Other Additions</b>						
Eastside Economic Feasibility Study			\$15,000		\$15,000	\$30,000
Motorsports Impact Study					\$75,000	\$75,000
African-American Museum					\$750,000	\$750,000
Seattle Center - McCaw Hall*					\$500,000	\$500,000
Village Theater					\$500,000	\$500,000
ArtsWest					\$50,000	\$50,000
Sumclaw Arts Alive					\$5,000	\$5,000
Federal Way Symphony					\$50,000	\$50,000
Friends of Hylebos*					\$20,000	\$20,000
Des Moines Creek*					\$40,000	\$40,000
Culver Program		\$30,000				\$30,000
Sheriff Backcountry Patrols			\$10,000			\$10,000
Kirkland Performance Arts Center			\$25,000			\$25,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,005,000</b>	<b>\$2,085,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$10,446,293</b>	<b>\$202,144</b>	<b>\$391,000</b>	<b>\$258,000</b>	<b>\$3,728,900</b>	<b>\$4,503,044</b>