



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**March 9, 2009**

**Ordinance 16377**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0538.1

**Sponsors** Dunn and Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to facilitating the cleanup of  
2 illegal dumping on private property.

3

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

5 1. Illegal dumping has significant negative impacts on King County and  
6 its residents. It is unsightly, can decrease land values, attracts more  
7 dumping and can be the source of fires. Illegal dumping can contaminate  
8 land, streams, lakes and rivers, as well as nearby drinking water wells.

9 Illegally dumped materials are a health hazard, attracting rodents,  
10 mosquitoes and other vermin. Dumped materials can also be a physical  
11 hazard to children playing in or around them.

12 2. King County has developed a variety of programs and regulations to  
13 help prevent illegal dumping and to facilitate its cleanup. These include  
14 the Adopt-A-Roadway program administered by the King County roads  
15 division of the department of transportation and numerous educational  
16 programs implemented by the solid waste division of the department of  
17 natural resources and parks. In addition, the county recently proposed

18 legislation that would broaden enforcement authority for illegal dumping  
19 and require illegal dumpers to pay restitution to property owners in  
20 addition to paying applicable civil penalties.

21 3. Responding to illegal dumping is expensive, costing county  
22 government alone more than two million dollars every year to respond to  
23 complaints, clean up dump sites on county lands and roads, abate dump  
24 sites on private lands and conduct enforcement actions.

25 4. Illegal dumping in King County communities can pose serious health  
26 risks. Not only do these illegal dump sites cause a heightened risk of  
27 physical injury from contact with broken glass and sharp metal, but the  
28 sites also can promote the spread of disease.

29 5. The accumulation of trash on vacant lots, yards, sidewalks and planting  
30 strips increases the health risks. Sites that are not cleaned up can also  
31 invite more illegal dumping.

32 6. It is in the public interest to facilitate the clean up of illegally dumped  
33 waste on both public and private property.

34 7. Illegal dumping is expensive for citizens. Private property owners who  
35 are victims of illegal dumping must not only pay for the cost of cleanup,  
36 but also must pay for the proper disposal of the waste.

37 8. Although King County has the lowest solid waste disposal fees in the  
38 region, even the county's minimum fee of seventeen dollars and twenty  
39 five cents can be a deterrent to the clean up of illegally-dumped waste,  
40 particularly for low-income property owners.

41           9. In the past, the county has successfully used disposal fee waivers to  
42           help facilitate the prompt cleanup and proper disposal of storm debris  
43           following major storms and flooding.

44           10. In May 2008, the solid waste division launched a pilot program called  
45           the Community Cleanup Assistance Program to help keep communities  
46           clean and reduce costs to the public related to illegal dumping, such as  
47           repeated inspections and enforcement actions. The program provides  
48           vouchers to pay disposal fees for low income residents and victims of  
49           illegal dumping.

50           11. The Community Cleanup Assistance Program has been successful at  
51           facilitating the cleanup of illegally dumped waste and will ultimately  
52           reduce the county's enforcement and inspection costs.

53           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

54           SECTION 1. The solid waste division is authorized and directed to continue to  
55           provide the Community Cleanup Assistance Program to provide vouchers or other  
56           waivers to cover at least the minimum disposal fee at King County disposal facilities to  
57           facilitate the cleanup of illegally-dumped waste for low income residents and victims of  
58           illegal dumping. The division shall publicize the Community Cleanup Assistance  
59           Program through appropriate outreach and other communications to help facilitate the  
60           cleanup of illegally dumped waste.

61           SECTION 2. The solid waste division may develop criteria and procedures for  
62           distributing vouchers or other fee waiver mechanisms as well as verifying eligibility of  
63           recipients.

64            SECTION 3. To ensure that fee waivers do not have an adverse impact on rates  
65 for other customers or solid waste disposal operations, the division may limit the total  
66 cost of the Community Cleanup Assistance Program and the total number of waivers in  
67 any year. In addition, the division may limit the number of waivers per person in a  
68 particular time period as well as limit the volume and frequency of waste disposal using  
69 waivers and the types of materials accepted. The division may implement such other  
70 requirements as are necessary or convenient to implement the Community Cleanup  
71 Assistance Program.

72            SECTION 4. Persons receiving a fee waiver assume all risks related to clean-up  
73 and disposal and must comply with all applicable legal requirements, including, but not  
74 limited to, safety regulations, waste acceptance policies and regulations governing  
75 covered loads. The division shall provide a report to the council within eight months  
76 after the adoption of this ordinance regarding issues and recommendations related to the  
77 implementation of such waivers, as well as the impacts of such waivers on rates and  
78 operations.

79            SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or  
80

81 circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the  
82 provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

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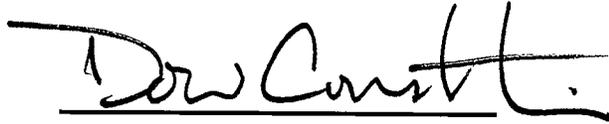
Ordinance 16377 was introduced on 10/6/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 3/9/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mr. Constantine, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips and Ms.  
Patterson

No: 0

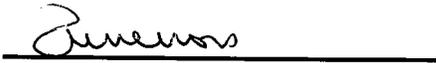
Excused: 4 - Mr. Ferguson, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett and Mr. Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



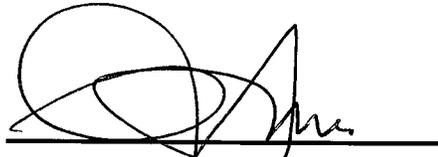
Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 12 day of MARCH, 2009.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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2009 MAR 13 AM 11:00  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL