



King County

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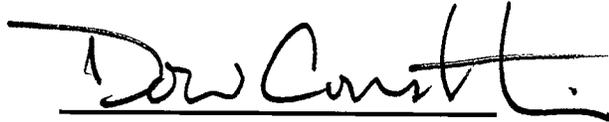
Ordinance 16377 was introduced on 10/6/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 3/9/2009, by the following vote:

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

No: 0

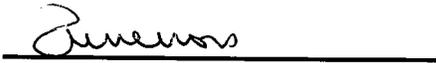
Excused: 4 - Mr. Ferguson, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett and Mr. Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



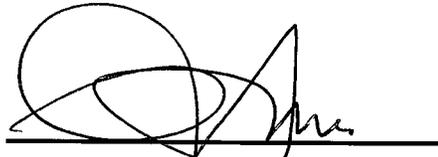
Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 12 day of MARCH, 2009.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL