**Metropolitan King County Council**

**Committee of the Whole**

**Staff Report**

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| Agenda item No: **10**Motion No: **2009-0329** | Date: **July 1, 2009**Prepared by: **Clif Curry & Mark Melroy** |

# SUBJECT

# A MOTION accepting the superior court targeted juvenile and family law facilities master plan.

# SUMMARY

This Proposed Motion transmits a Superior Court Targeted Facilities Master Plan (FMP) for juvenile and family justice facilities. This Superior Court Targeted FMP describes a series of seven scenarios for a new King County Youth Services Center (YSC) facility at 12th Avenue and East Alder Street in downtown Seattle. The FMP is part of a long term planning effort that began with a Targeted Operational Master Plan (Targeted OMP) for Superior Court family law practice. The Targeted OMP was completed and adopted by the Council on September 25, 2006.The Proposed Motion accepts the Superior Court Targeted FMP in accordance with King County Code requirements found in section 4.04.200

Nevertheless, while the plan provides extensive information related to proposed options for building and financing a new facility, the report *does not* make any recommendations about whether to build the new Youth Services facility, how large to build it, how to finance the construction, what method to use for construction, or whether it should be considered with other criminal or justice capital construction needs.

Following extensive meetings during 2005 and 2006, with stakeholders both within the county and users of the systems, the Targeted OMP recommended that the county focus on a unified “full-service” children and family court model. The oversight group felt that the needs of families and others using the system would be best served by having a single facility for family law-related matters. In addition, the group recognized that the consolidation of court and other related services would yield significant efficiencies and savings. The Targeted OMP recommended co-location of juvenile and family law functions in either one or two new courthouses in King County. From this recommendation, Phase I of the SC Targeted FMP effort was completed in 2008 and resulted in an initial series of courthouse facility options.

After subsequent work with stakeholders and consultants, the county evaluated several options for the provision of services and the replacement of the obsolete family court facilities. The initial review included review of the consolidation option, which was later dropped because of concerns related to construction costs. The final report, with multiple options, but no recommendation, is transmitted as part of this legislation.

The council is being asked to decide the size and type of operations that will be part of a new family court complex, the amount to be financed and the method of financing, the method of construction, and whether the financing request should include other law and justice capital needs.

Because the transmitted report does not make recommendations in these areas, the Committee Chair has directed staff to expand the discussion of these issues by preparing separate briefings on the following topics:

* Overview of Family Court operations, adopted recommendations of the Superior Court Targeted OMP, and review of current facility conditions
* history and background of the facilities planning effort—especially the options not considered or discarded
* proposed options contained in the report
* proposed financing and construction options including related schedules
* discussion of whether other law and justice capital or operating needs should be included in a financing measure to be put before the voters in King County

In an effort to prepare Councilmembers for this substantial set of decisions, staff are prepared to return to the Committee between now and the end of 2009 to offer the briefings described above.

# ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2009-0329
2. Transmittal Letter
3. King County Superior Court’s Targeted Juvenile and Family Law Facilities Master Plan Presentation

# INVITED

Hon. Bruce Hilyer, Presiding Judge, King County Superior Court

Paul Sherfey, Chief Administrative Officer, King County Superior Court

Kathy Brown, Director, Facilities Management Division