



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 10, 2010

Motion 13221

Proposed No. 2010-0266.2

Sponsors Hague, Phillips and Patterson

1 A MOTION requesting the executive to develop an
2 implementation plan for creating and managing community
3 gardens on King County owned property to grow fruits and
4 vegetables for the purposes of improving public health,
5 building community and addressing hunger.

6 WHEREAS, economic conditions are creating a growing hunger crisis, and

7 WHEREAS, food banks across the nation have experienced an unprecedented
8 increase in the demand for services, and

9 WHEREAS, Northwest Harvest reports a twenty seven percent increase in the
10 number of meals served and visits to its network of food banks between March 2008 and
11 March 2010, and

12 WHEREAS, according to recent United States Department of Agriculture figures
13 and research from the American Dietetic Association, almost eighty percent of adults are
14 not eating the recommended levels of fruits and vegetables, and

15 WHEREAS, low-income communities are more likely to lack access to fresh
16 organic produce, and

17 WHEREAS, the county has adopted a Public Health Operational Master Plan to
18 address nutrition related diseases such as obesity and diabetes, and

19 WHEREAS, the 2008 King County Comprehensive Plan directs the county to
20 explore ways of creating and supporting community gardens, farmers markets, produce
21 stands and other similar community-based food growing projects to provide and improve
22 access to healthy food for all rural residents, and

23 WHEREAS, as demonstrated locally and in the White House vegetable garden,
24 community gardens are a way to educate children about healthful, locally grown fruit and
25 vegetables at a time when obesity and diabetes have become a national concern, and

26 WHEREAS, community gardens serve the nutritional needs of the community by
27 providing produce for gardeners, food banks and others in need, and

28 WHEREAS, community gardening improves food security, neighborhood
29 improvement, recreation and open space, and

30 WHEREAS, growing food locally has a positive impact on our region's carbon
31 footprint, and

32 WHEREAS, there are many successful models of community gardening within
33 King County and organizations working to encourage locally grown produce, community
34 gardening and urban food production, and

35 WHEREAS, King County hosts three successful community gardens in the
36 county park system: Marymoor; White Center Heights; and North Green River, and

37 WHEREAS, King County owns many other properties, some of which might
38 contain areas suitable for growing fruits and vegetables, and

39 WHEREAS, Ordinance 16263 required the executive to conduct an inventory of
40 county-owned or managed facilities and properties for the purpose of evaluating their

41 feasibility for use in programs such as pea patches and community gardens, which the
42 executive completed in March, 2010;

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

44 A. The executive is requested to develop an implementation plan for creating and
45 managing community gardens on King County owned property to grow fruits and
46 vegetables for the purposes of improving public health, building community and
47 addressing hunger. The community gardens shall serve individuals and community
48 organizations seeking to produce locally grown fruits and vegetables for their own
49 consumption or for charitable distribution. The implementation plan shall be developed
50 in consultation with an advisory council made up of representatives of, but not limited to,
51 Public Health - Seattle & King County Washington State University, King County
52 agricultural commission, food banks, gardening organizations, schools, homeless shelters
53 and advocates for ensuring that all residents of King County have access to nutritious
54 fresh food. The implementation plan shall seek to develop an approach for matching
55 those who are interested in participating in a community garden with available county
56 owned land. The implementation plan shall include a financial plan. In developing the
57 implementation plan, the executive shall consider the many different, successful models
58 for community gardening, including, but not limited to, the city of Seattle's P-Patch
59 program, Solid Ground's Lettuce Link, urbangardenshare.org and other models that
60 involve partnerships with nonprofit organizations, food banks, gardening groups, schools,
61 day cares and homeless shelters. In developing the implementation plan, the executive
62 shall seek opportunities for grant funding for implementing a community garden
63 program.

64 The implementation plan shall include a proposed process for selecting garden
65 sites. The selection process shall give priority to community garden sites with:

66 1. High levels of poverty; and

67 2. A community organization interested in sponsoring the community garden
68 with the capacity to assume a leadership role in its development and ongoing operation;

69 and

70 3. Readiness of the garden site and identified financial or in-kind resources to
71 create any needed garden infrastructure.


72 B. The executive is requested to electronically file with the clerk of the council

73 by November 22, 2010, the implementation plan developed under subsection A. of this
74 motion.
75

Motion 13221 was introduced on 4/26/2010 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 5/10/2010, by the following vote:

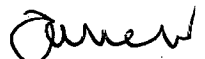
Yes: 9 - Ms. Drago, Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett,
Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None