## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 6 | **Name:** | Sam Porter |
| **Proposed No.:** | 2021-0374 | **Date:** | November 16, 2021 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Ordinance 2021-0374 would repeal a fee for the disposal of court exhibits previously used by the Department of Judicial Administration (DJA).

**SUMMARY**

King County Code (KCC) currently allows DJA to charge a $30 fee for the cost of disposing court exhibits not withdrawn by parties 45 – 90 days following the completion of a case. Proposed Ordinance 2021-0374 would repeal this fee.

**BACKGROUND**

Authorized under RCW 36.18.016, KCC 4A.630.150, adopted in 2004, allows DJA to charge $30 for the disposal of court exhibits not withdrawn by parties. Historically, all court records were physical and required physical disposal which incurred a cost.

**ANALYSIS**

Historically, disposal of exhibits not picked up by parties involved recycling and trips to the transfer station, both of which incurred cost. DJA reports that court exhibits are now a mix of electronic and physical records allowing for electronic deletion as a means for disposal which does not incur a cost. While physical exhibits are sometimes provided in cases, DJA has not charged this fee in almost five years and is therefore requesting this fee be repealed. There is no fiscal impact of this legislation. Council's legal counsel has reviewed the proposed ordinance.

**INVITED**

* Barb Miner, Director, Department of Judicial Administration
* Teresa Bailey, Deputy Director, Department of Judicial Administration

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Ordinance 2021-0374
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Fiscal Note