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Title: A MOTION relating to King County councilmembers individually committing to limit the increase in their net salaries in 2009 to the amount of net wage or salary increase as furloughed employees by making donations to the general fund in the amount of that difference.

Sponsors: Julia Patterson, Larry Phillips

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A MOTION relating to King County councilmembers individually committing to limit the increase in their net salaries in 2009 to the amount of net wage or salary increase as furloughed employees by making donations to the general fund in the amount of that difference.

WHEREAS, the county is experiencing an unprecedented financial emergency resulting in a significant shortfall in the amount of funding needed to sustain the current level of general operations through 2009, and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve certain services and reduce the necessity for additional reductions in force, the county will shut down all but essential services and place nonessential employees on an unpaid furlough, also known as an emergency budget furlough, for ten days in 2009, and

WHEREAS, the legislative branch is committed to making similar sacrifices and ensuring that every agency does its part to preserve core services through implementation of an emergency furlough program in our offices for ten days next year, and

WHEREAS, county employees are eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in 2009 that, after offsetting the reduction in actual pay from a ten day unpaid furlough, will provide for approximately an effective one percent increase in wages or salary.

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

We believe that as elected officials we need to make the same personal sacrifices that we are asking of our valued county employees. Therefore, we individually commit to limit our net salaries to the same effective wage or salary increase of approximately one percent that has been negotiated with represented employees and is also adopted for non-represented employees.

Because the Washington state Constitution and state law do not legally permit elected officials to change their salaries during their current term of office, we must seek an alternative method of generating savings. We will donate to the county general fund an amount equal to that part of our 2009 salaries in excess of one percent over our 2008 salaries, to match the personal financial sacrifice resulting from the effective one percent wage and salary increase shared by employees.

We further commit to implement the ten-day emergency furlough for the personal staff of our individual offices.

We will work to ensure that reductions resulting from implementation of the emergency budget furlough and the consequent reduction in workload do not impair the legislative branch's ability to carry out its responsibilities of setting county policy,

providing oversight and accountability and responding to the needs of King County citizens.