

STATEMENT OF COMMON INTERESTS

May 12, 2010

The King County Coalition of Labor Unions understands the difficult budget situation facing all local governments and respects that changes are necessary to ensure King County's financial stability now and in the future. County employees are devoted public servants who rightly expect to be compensated fairly. In our view, the budget situation faced by King County is the result of the long-standing structural gap facing all counties as a result of voter-limited revenues, not issues related to the market-based compensation of County employees.

Nevertheless, County employees and their unions have a long history of working collaboratively with the County to find short-term solutions to budgetary problems. Most recently the Coalition of Labor Unions agreed to \$39 million in savings in the current health care program, and agreed to a 10-day furlough in 2009 that saved taxpayers \$8 million. In addition, it's important to remember that \$150 million in program cuts have been made over just the last two years, causing many County employees to lose employment and reducing the services provided to the public.

The Coalition of Labor Unions remains committed to working with the Executive and Council over the long term to contain costs and improve efficiencies. We support Executive Constantine's initiative to involve front-line employees in identifying efficiencies and process improvements that save the public money, and we will work with the Executive to review and find ways to implement reasonable suggestions offered by County employees.

We also appreciate the Executive's commitment to a thoughtful, long-term process on collective bargaining, and his stated commitment to bringing specific issues to the bargaining table, rather than attempting to negotiate in public.

We are good faith partners in the success and financial stability of the County, and we look forward to working with the Executive and Council on proposals and changes that secure public services in the most efficient and cost-effective way

Dustin Frederick
Co-Chair King County Coalition of Unions

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