

Resolution No. 31135

A RESOLUTION outlining the strategies and actions that the City Council intends to undertake to mitigate the impacts of the current economic recession on Seattle residents and businesses, and to help promote the economic recovery of the City and region.

The City of Seattle – Legislative Department

Resolution sponsored by: Conlin

Committee Action:

Date	Recommendation	Vote
5-11-09	Adopt As Amended	8-1 (No: Malver)

Related Legislation File: _____

Date Introduced and Referred: <u>5-4-09</u>	To: (committee): <u>Economic Recovery Strategy Committee of the Whole</u>
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date of Final Action: <u>5-11-09</u>	Date Presented to Mayor: _____
Date Signed by Mayor:	Date Returned to City Clerk: <u>5-11-09</u>
Published by Title Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>SP</u>	Date Returned Without Concurrence:
Published in Full Text _____	

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council.

Full Council Action:

Date	Decision	Vote
5- 11 ¹¹ -09	Adopted As Amended	8-1 (No: Malver)

RESOLUTION 31135

1
2 A RESOLUTION outlining the strategies and actions that the City Council intends to undertake
3 to mitigate the impacts of the current economic recession on Seattle residents and
4 businesses, and to help promote the economic recovery of the City and region.

5 WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing the most significant economic recession since the
6 Great Depression; and

7 WHEREAS, the current recession has seen five million jobs lost nationally over the past fourteen
8 months, the state unemployment rate surpass nine percent, and King County
9 unemployment levels reach eight percent; and

10 WHEREAS, across the country, housing values have dropped, credit is difficult to access, and
11 unemployment has soared; and

12 WHEREAS, while the Greater Seattle area is blessed with a diversity of business and industry
13 and has, to date, withstood the impacts of the recession relatively well, it has not been
14 immune from its effects; and

15 WHEREAS, the City Council has identified several actions that the City can implement to
16 support economic recovery, help Seattle residents access resources to allay the
17 recession's impacts, and improve Seattle's overall business climate; NOW,
18 THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE

The City Council intends to implement the following actions:

Section 1. Provide relief to small businesses.

- 19 a. Increase the B&O Tax threshold from \$80,000 to \$100,000, which would exempt
20 approximately 1,800 small businesses from paying the tax.
- 21 b. Cap the Employee Hours Tax ("Head Tax") at 2008 levels for 2009 and 2010 and
22 consider repeal of the Head Tax for 2010. Businesses that increase employment in
23 2009-10 will not need to pay a Head Tax in excess of what they paid in 2008.
- 24 c. Exempt qualifying live music venues from the City's admission tax, effective July 1,
25 2009, by passing C.B. 116394 and amending the bill's effective date.
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1 d. Use Federal Stimulus Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to
2 increase loans to viable, small businesses that have been unable to obtain credit
3 elsewhere.

4 e. Extend the term of Master Use Permits (MUP) that have already been issued,
5 thereby saving developers the expense of reapplying for a MUP once the economy
6 begins to recover.
7

8 **Section 2. Refine OED's mission to improve the City's overall "Business Climate".**

9 a. Orient the City's Office of Economic Development (OED) towards providing more
10 focused support for small businesses. Establish Council priorities and benchmarks to
11 measure OED's effectiveness in this regard.

12 b. As OED reorganizes, develop the Department as "single point of entry" to help
13 businesses navigate City government with greater ease and improve City-wide
14 coordination among relevant departments, including the Department of Development
15 (DPD), Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), and the Department of
16 Executive Administration (DEA).
17

18 c. Have OED partner with neighborhood chambers and others to develop and promote a
19 "Buy Local" campaign, including encouraging Seattle residents to "vacation locally".
20

21 d. Reallocate resources within OED to encourage the creation of "green" businesses in
22 Seattle and improve the environmental efficacy of existing businesses. This could
23 include helping businesses access the various City programs that provide financial
24 assistance for certain conservation improvements (e.g. utility rebates), encouraging
25 "Buying Co-ops" for compostable products, and accessing technical expertise on
26 green building incentives and opportunities.
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2 **Section 3. Review the City of Seattle's taxes, fees and utility rates.**

- 3 a. In response to the "Seattle Business Coalition's" request for a competitiveness study,
4 Council will work with the Office of Economic Development, the Office of Policy
5 and Management, other City staff and business community stakeholders to conduct an
6 independent review of recent economic development trends in the City (employment,
7 business relocation, construction, etc.) and assess what impact City imposed costs
8 (taxes, fees, utility rates, etc) and other factors have had on the trends. This could
9 include comparisons to other comparable jurisdictions, in terms of development
10 trends, city-imposed costs and non-cost drivers of business development decisions
11 including public safety, human services, transportation and other governmental
12 services.
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14 b. Do not approve new utility rates in 2009 and proceed cautiously when considering
15 future tax, utility, and fee increases.
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17 c. Review DPD's existing fee policies with the aim of considering options such as a
18 "refundable" permit fee if DPD does not complete its permit review within an
19 established timeframe.
20

21 **Section 4. Support individuals affected by the economic recession.**

- 22 a. Use approximately \$5 million in federal stimulus funds to help homeless households
23 move to stable housing and prevent further homelessness by providing temporary
24 assistance to those at risk of losing housing.
25
26 b. Determine how funds from the City's housing levy can be leveraged to prevent
27 homelessness and best assist people dealing with the impacts of the recession.
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- 1 c. Use the City’s webpage to help direct Seattle residents to websites (e.g. 2-1-1) that
2 provide information on human service, housing, and employment resources.

3 **Section 5. Invest available resources in actions that will aid recovery.**

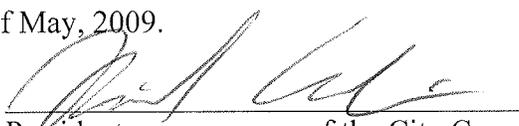
- 4 a. Continue to seek the maximum amount of funds available to the City from the
5 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Make judicious and strategic use of funds
6 that are awarded, such as the \$5.1 million for weatherization and \$6.1 million for
7 energy efficiency programs. Work with regional partners to coordinate proposals and
8 increase the region’s competitiveness for federal funding awards.
9
10 b. Continue to identify “shovel-ready” projects from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces
11 Levy and other City capital projects that can be implemented as soon as funding
12 becomes available.

13 **Section 6. Prioritize City services and maximize operational efficiencies.**

- 14 a. Emphasize maintaining basic services in the City budget, such as public safety,
15 transportation, and human services.
16
17 b. Set a new course in budget review, allocating time outside of the annual appropriation
18 process to review program outcomes and results so that annual incremental
19 appropriation requests and changes are made within the context of overall program
20 funding. Encourage City departments to employ progressive management techniques,
21 such as six sigma analysis, to identify and implement program efficiencies.
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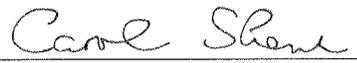
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Adopted by the City Council the 11th day of May, 2009, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 11th day of May, 2009.



President _____ of the City Council

Filed by me this 11th day of May, 2009.



Acting City Clerk

(Seal)

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	DOF Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Christa Valles/684-5336	

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION outlining the strategies and actions that the City Council will undertake to mitigate the impacts of the current economic recession on Seattle residents and businesses, and to help promote the economic recovery of the City and region.

Summary of the Legislation:

This resolution outlines the City Council's intent to implement a variety of measures to help stimulate the economy.

- **Background:** The City Council has held a series of briefings and roundtable discussions with various stakeholders on measures the City can take to ease the impacts of the economic recession. This resolution is an outcome of those discussions.

X This legislation does not have any financial implications. This legislation does not have any direct or immediate financial implications itself; however, if Council does proceed with implementing some of the measures outlined in this resolution, there will be financial impacts. These financial impacts will be noted with the legislation that will be needed to implement such measures.



STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

239432
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No. TITLE ONLY

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

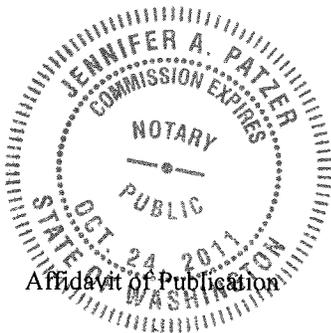
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:31134 & 31135

was published on

05/28/09

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 42.45, which amount has been paid in full.



Affidavit of Publication

[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
05/28/09 *[Signature]*

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

TITLE-ONLY PUBLICATION

The full text of the following resolutions, passed by the City Council on May 11, 2009, and published here by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us>. For further information, contact the Seattle City Clerk at 684-8344.

RESOLUTION NO. 31135

A RESOLUTION outlining the strategies and actions that the City Council intends to undertake to mitigate the impacts of the current economic recession on Seattle residents and businesses, and to help promote the economic recovery of the City and region.

RESOLUTION NO. 31134

A RESOLUTION relating to the City of Seattle's 2009 and 2010 budgets, acknowledging the need for immediate spending reductions, establishing the Council's highest budget priorities in the context of these reductions, and identifying potential cost savings to be considered by the Executive in preparing the 2010 proposed budget.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, May 28, 2009.
5/28(239432)

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27 saving developers the expense of reapplying for a MUP once the economy begins to
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- 1 d. Cap the amount businesses pay in 2009 and 2010 toward the Employee Hours Tax
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3 not need to pay a Head Tax in excess of what they paid in 2008.

4 **Section 2. Refine OED’s mission to improve the City’s overall “Business Climate”.**

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- 25 a. In response to the “Seattle Business Coalition’s” request for a competitiveness study,
26 work with the Office of Economic development and the Office of Policy and
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1 Management to lead a review of recent economic development trends in the City
2 (employment, business relocation, construction, etc.) and assess what impact City
3 imposed costs (taxes, fees, utility rates, etc) have had on the trends. This would
4 include comparisons to other jurisdictions, both in terms of development trends and
5 city-imposed costs.

- 6
7 b. Proceed cautiously when considering future tax, utility, and fee increases. Keep utility
8 rates stable through at least 2010.
- 9 c. Review DPD's existing fee policies with the aim of considering a "refundable" permit
10 fee if DPD does not complete its permit review within an established timeframe.

11 **Section 4. Support individuals affected by the economic recession.**

- 12 a. Use approximately \$5 million in federal stimulus funds to help homeless households
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15

16
17 Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2009, and
18 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this ____ day
19 of _____, 2009.

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21 _____
22 President _____ of the City Council

23 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2009.

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25 _____
26 City Clerk

27 (Seal)
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