

**2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent**

**Ready for Notebook**

| Tab | Action | Option | Version |
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**Budget Action Title:** Requesting that DoIT report quarterly and at major decision points to the Council on its progress in developing a strategy for the Next Generation Data Center Initiative

**Councilmembers:** Burgess; Clark; Harrell

**Staff Analyst:** Tony Kilduff

| Date |         | Total | SB | BH | TR | RC | TB | NL | JG | SC | MO |
|------|---------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|      | Yes     |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|      | No      |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|      | Abstain |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|      | Absent  |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

The Council requests that the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) provide written progress reports to all Councilmembers on the status of the Next Generation Data Center Initiative, and where appropriate, oral briefings to Public Safety, Civil Rights & Technology and the Government Performance and Finance committees. The reports should focus on timelines, milestone, critical issues and key decisions within the project. The reports should be provided quarterly and at critical decision points.

**Background:**

In 2012, the City identified a power transmission problem that directly impacted the City’s primary data center managed by DoIT and therefore affected the business operations of all City departments. In addition, separate IT infrastructure housed in the same building but managed by City Light and the Department of Transportation was also affected. The problem was repaired but underscored the need to upgrade the City’s systems. Within the same timeframe, an engineering report commissioned by the City concluded that none of the existing City data centers meet the City’s current business needs. Most of the City’s data centers were developed to meet the technology requirements of more than a decade ago. Since then, technology and business needs have changed significantly and the existing data centers cannot meet current or future City requirements.

The 2013 budget includes funding to begin a multi-year effort to invest in an upgraded system of integrated data centers. The project is expected to take three years to complete. During 2013, DoIT will work with FAS and other City departments to collect and define the requirements for the new environment. Those requirements will then be analyzed and used to develop options for the future data center environment. Options to be considered include retrofitting existing centers, leasing new

data center space from a private or another governmental entity, moving some applications into the cloud, building a new City owned facility, or some combination of the above.

Once the options have been assessed and a solution selected (in the latter part of 2013), work will begin to develop the detailed plans necessary to implement that solution. This will include any necessary facility/space acquisition, build-outs, upgrades, migration/move plans, etc. DoIT anticipates that funding in the 2014-15 budgets will cover the costs of the actual acquisitions, build-outs, upgrades, moves, etc.

The funding included for 2013 assumes a combination of City and external staffing resources will be used for this effort. Two new positions will be created: one as the City's project manager for this effort, and the second to lead the effort to develop a Citywide perspective, plan and processes for the business continuity of the City's technology systems.

The City houses over 700 separate applications and systems in its data centers. Ownership, use, and operation of those systems is distributed across City departments; however, for them to be housed in a shared environment supported by shared infrastructure (electrical, cooling, etc.) and shared services (virtual environments, storage, web hosting, etc.) requires development and maintenance of a coordinated structure.

2013 funding will also be used to acquire appropriate external resources and expertise to complete the planning and execution of this effort. This could include such resources as specialized engineering expertise (data center design is a specialized skill set), resources to assist in detailed requirements gathering and analysis, resources to supplement existing City IT staff resources. Later, if the City chooses to build its own facility, architectural, construction, and other skills will be required.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Government Performance and Finance; Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology

**Date Due to Council:** Quarterly & at major decision points