#2

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31404

A RESOLUTION relating to the City of Seattle's budget planning, establishing general standards for the measurement of program performance and program evaluation, and stating the Council's intent to begin applying these standards in its review of the 2013 Proposed Budget.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Seattle rightly expect that their city government will implement programs in the most effective and efficient manner possible, especially in the priority areas of public safety, human services, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, achieving specific and desired outcomes begins by clearly defining what the City intends to accomplish for its citizens and requires accurately assessing the effectiveness of City action toward this end; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. In its review of the 2013 Proposed Budget, the Council intends to consider four main questions when considering the proposed funding of new programs or significant changes to existing programs (such as proposed increases in funding):

A. **What is the long-term and measurable goal or goals of the program?** Council expects that new or significantly changed programs will articulate clear, specific, and measurable goals.

B. **What is the gap between the status quo and the program goal(s)?** A clear, specific, and quantifiable assessment of the status quo, such as a statistical baseline, will be essential for tracking results and determining the feasibility of achieving the goal(s).

C. **How effective is the new program expected to be in making progress toward the stated goal(s)?** Budget proposals for new or significantly changed programs, should include forecasts of expected outcomes. These forecasts should be described in terms of clear, specific, and quantifiable progress toward the program goals, and the specific time period over which this progress will be made, including the short-term (within the next 12 months) and, where appropriate, the medium-term. The forecasts of effectiveness should be supported by high

quality evidence of how comparable programs have been implemented elsewhere, or describe the specific basis for the forecasts presented.

D. **How will the success of the new or changed program be measured?** Successful proposals will include a specific plan for clearly measuring and evaluating program outcomes. Depending on the nature of the proposal, the Council will consider different approaches to program monitoring:

1. For any program attempting to replicate a model successfully implemented and rigorously evaluated at other locations, the Council will expect evidence that the program proposed for Seattle is significantly similar to the model, is being implemented with fidelity (in the same manner as the model program), and that a clear process and timeline for tracking specific and quantifiable progress toward the program goal(s) has been established.
2. For programs that adopt more innovative approaches where success has not been previously demonstrated by high quality evidence (such as objective studies of program outcomes with clear, specific, and quantifiable results and a control group), the Council expects a more rigorous plan for program evaluation. Such a plan should include (i) a clear process and timeline for tracking specific and measurable program outcomes and (ii) a methodology for comparing the outcomes of those targeted by the program with a comparable group not affected by program implementation.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2012, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this_____ day of _____, 2012.

_____

President _____of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

_____

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2012.

_____

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

Form revised: December 6, 2011

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Peter Harris / 684-8368	n.a.

Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION relating to the City of Seattle's budget planning, establishing general standards for the measurement of program performance and program evaluation, and stating the Council's intent to begin applying these standards in its review of the 2013 Proposed Budget.

Summary of the Legislation:

This resolution states the Council's intent to begin applying standards for performance measurement and evaluation to new and revised City programs in its review of the 2013 Proposed Budget. The resolution generally defines the standards, to include a definition of measurable goals, measurement of the status quo, a forecast of the effectiveness of the program in moving toward the goal, and measurement of program success.

Background:

Many governments, including the current federal administration, the State of Washington, and many cities, have found that their performance can be improved by clearly stating what they intend to accomplish in a given domain and then accurately assessing the effectiveness of governmental action toward this end.

Please check one of the following:

__x__ **This legislatio n does not have any financial implications.**

a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**

Ideally the resolution will encourage more effective and efficient City programs.

b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?**

None.

c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

The resolution will affect those departments whose programs the Council reviews in this fashion.

d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?

None.

e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No.

f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No.

g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.