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**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**RESOLUTION 31455**

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A RESOLUTION supporting creation of a secure, convenient medicine return program in King County to reduce the public safety and environmental impacts of unwanted medicines.

WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths, abuse of prescription pain killers, and abuse of medicines by young people is a growing problem, and more people die of prescription medicines than all illegal drugs combined; and

WHEREAS, medicines used in the home are the leading cause of poisonings reported to the Washington Poison Center, and preventable poisonings from medicines have been rising rapidly, especially among children and seniors; and

WHEREAS, unwanted medicines left in the home contribute to opportunities for drug abuse, drug theft, and accidental poisonings; and

WHEREAS, most medicines, when discarded, are categorized as dangerous waste under the Washington State Dangerous Waste regulations (Chapter 173-303 WAC) or hazardous waste under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (42 USC 6901), or both; and

WHEREAS, medicines disposed of by flushing into sewers are not completely treated or removed by sewage treatment facilities or on-site sewage systems, allowing pharmaceuticals to be released into the environment; and

WHEREAS, medicines disposed of in the garbage are not secure from theft or may eventually end up in landfill leachate which may be sent to sewage treatment facilities, allowing pharmaceuticals to be released into the environment; and

WHEREAS, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy recommends encouraging and providing for proper disposal of medicines as a key element for the prevention of prescription drug abuse in its 2012 National Drug Control Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Food & Drug Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency recommend medicine return programs as a more secure and environmentally safe disposal method than throwing pharmaceuticals in trash; and

1 WHEREAS, communities are struggling to implement and finance programs to address the  
2 public safety impacts of leftover medicines in residents' homes and the environmental  
3 impacts of improper disposal of unwanted medicines, and

4 WHEREAS, pharmaceutical manufacturers currently operate and fund successful medicine  
5 return systems in Canada and several countries in Europe; NOW, THEREFORE,

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
7 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

8 Section 1. The Seattle City Council encourages the King County Board of Health to  
9 establish a convenient, safe, secure, and environmentally sound medicine return program for  
10 unwanted medicines from households. The City encourages the Board of Health to consider a  
11 pharmaceutical manufacturer financing mechanism that covers the cost of collection,  
12 transportation, and disposal, and does not rely on local government funding.

13 Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, and  
14 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
15 of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

18  
19 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:  
20

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Michael McGinn, Mayor  
23

24 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.  
25

Elaine Ko  
Legislative Department  
May 22, 2013  
Version 1

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Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

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**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Elaine Ko 684.8618	N/A

**Legislation Title:**

A resolution supporting creation of a secure, convenient medicine return program in King County to reduce the public safety and environmental impacts of unwanted medicines.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

See above

**Background:**

This resolution arose from meetings with the King County Board of Health. The City of Seatac recently passed a similar resolution.

  #   This legislation does not have any financial implications.

       This legislation has financial implications.

**Other Implications:**

- a) Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?  
N/A
- b) What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?  
N/A
- c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?  
Potential operational impacts to King County Board of Health
- d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?  
N/A
- e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?  
N/A
- f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?  
N/A

**g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

N/A

**h) Other Issues:**

N/A

**List attachments to the fiscal note below:**