

RESOLUTION NO. 587

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE CITY COUNCIL'S OBJECTION TO BOTH THE PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE ACTION PROPOSED BY THE PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL IN CONSOLIDATING THE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM, SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 30, 2002.

WHEREAS, Pierce County currently operates a District Court system, and one court is located in the City of Gig Harbor; and

WHEREAS, Pierce County has asserted that as a cost saving measure, it must consolidate all court operations in one central location; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the District Court in Gig Harbor will cause a substantial hardship to the City employees who are required to appear in District Court, including but not limited to the police officers who must show up in court during criminal hearings; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the District Court in Gig Harbor will cause a substantial hardship because these employees will now be required to spend more time traveling a greater distance to the consolidated District Court, which adds to the time they are away from their regular employment, and is more costly, due to the expenses relating to such travel (additional costs for gas, parking and tolls); and

WHEREAS, Pierce County has decided to place the matter of court consolidation on the County Council agenda for April, 30, 2002, when the County representative from Gig Harbor is out of the country and will not be able to attend; and

WHEREAS, at this time, Pierce County has indicated that it will only allow one public hearing on the matter before it is voted upon by the Pierce County Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the notice it has received for the County's action is too short to be able to provide Pierce County with a detailed response to the proposed court consolidation, and the City Council would like to present the County with additional information and analysis regarding alternatives; and

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Gig Harbor City Council objects to the Pierce County Council's decision

to consider the matter of court consolidation and the elimination of the District Court in Gig Harbor with only one public hearing and while the City's representative in the County Council cannot attend to provide her input or vote.

Section 2. The Gig Harbor City Council objects to the Council's decision to consider this matter on April 30th, which does not provide the City Council enough time to be able to prepare a considered response to the court consolidation issue.

Section 3. The Gig Harbor City Council hereby requests that the decision of consolidation of District Court II be deferred until such time that the City Council and County Council can provide full and complete information.

RESOLVED by the City Council this 22nd day of April, 2002.

APPROVED:

MAYOR PRO TEM, DEREK YOUNG

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

CITY CLERK, MOLLY M. TOWSLEE

APPROVED AS TO FORM;
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

BY: _____
CAROL A. MORRIS, CITY ATTORNEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 4/18/02
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 4/22/02
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