

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
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** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION affirming the Seattle City Council’s commitment to high quality locally produced broadcast news to effectively inform the public in the case of emergencies.

Summary and background of the Legislation: This resolution affirms the Seattle City Council’s commitment to high quality locally produced broadcast news to effectively inform the public in the case of emergencies. In 1949 KING 5 was established as the only broadcast television station in the Pacific Northwest, and under the leadership of Dorothy Bullitt, the first woman to buy and manage a television station in the United States, became one of the first local TV news operation in the country, with a national reputation for public service and innovation. Broadcast television stations use public spectrum airwaves owned by the people of the United States, under license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and in that license are required to “render such broadcasting service as will serve the public interest” as trustees for the public.

Residents and local governments rely on professional local broadcast television personnel to collect and disseminate vital information; including to provide real-time information during public emergencies (e.g. earthquakes, wildfires, and increasingly-frequent extreme weather events) when other wireline and wireless communications and/or electric power distribution facilities may be disrupted. The special responsibility of local broadcasters in public emergencies was recognized in 2015 by the Oregon Legislature through the enactment of Oregon House Bill 2210 (ORS 401.239); designating local broadcasters as “First Informers” to complement “First Responders” (fire, police, etc.) and allocating specific responsibilities and privileges to professional local broadcast staff in public emergencies.

In 2013 Tegna Inc. (formerly Gannett Co. Inc.) acquired ownership of the Belo Corporation, which owns KING 5. IATSE 600 and IBEW 46 have reported that KING5 has introduced cutbacks in their news operations, introducing a greater focus on repurposing the commodified news product broadcast by other stations owned by their parent company. The contract proposal offered on January 7, 2016 by KING 5 to their unionized workers demanded “flexible jurisdiction” language that would allow the company to replace professional union workers with amateur, temporary, outsourced, or otherwise nonunion personnel. Professional journalists and technicians report that in February of 2016, KING 5 encouraged the early retirement of many of its most experienced employees.

If Tegna Inc. cuts costs by replacing and reducing its professional news-gathering staff, this

precedent will be duplicated by other local broadcast news outlets in the Seattle area, severely undermining the critical role of local broadcasters as effective First Informers in public emergencies. On January 10, 2016 the Boston Globe reported that on March 29, 2016 the FCC will allow broadcasters to sell Federally licensed frequencies to the highest bidder, creating the means for venture capitalists to take control of publicly-owned broadcast licenses for the purpose of profit maximization rather than service to local communities. Tegna, Inc., through the aforesaid policies and practices, operates contrary to the public interest.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.
 (If box is checked, please attach a new (if creating a project) or marked-up (if amending) CIP Page to the Council Bill. Please include the spending plan as part of the attached CIP Page.)

Project Name:	Project I.D.:	Project Location:	Start Date:	End Date:	Total Cost:

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Please check one:

This legislation has direct financial implications. (If the legislation has direct fiscal impacts (appropriations, revenue, positions), fill out the relevant sections below. If the financial implications are indirect or longer-term, describe them in narrative in the "Other Implications" section.)

This legislation does not have direct financial implications.
 (Please skip to "Other Implications" section at the end of the document and answer questions a-i.)

Budget program(s) affected:				
Estimated \$ Appropriation change:	General Fund \$		Other \$	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Estimated \$ Revenue change:	Revenue to General Fund		Revenue to Other Funds	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Positions affected:	No. of Positions		Total FTE Change	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Other departments affected:				

3.a. Appropriations

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.
 (If this box is checked, please complete this section. If this box is not checked, please proceed to Revenues)

Fund Name and number	Dept	Budget Control Level Name/#*	2015 Appropriation Change	2016 Estimated Appropriation Change
TOTAL				

*See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.
 (This table should reflect appropriations that are a direct result of this legislation. In the event that the project/programs associated with this ordinance had, or will have, appropriations in other legislation please provide details in the Appropriation Notes section below. If the appropriation is not complete supported by revenue/reimbursements listed below, please identify the funding source (e.g. available fund balance) to cover this appropriation in the notes section. Also indicate if the legislation changes appropriations one-time, ongoing, or both.)

Appropriations Notes:

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.
 (If this box is checked, please complete this section. If this box is not checked, please proceed to Positions)

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2015 Revenue	2016 Estimated Revenue
TOTAL				

(This table should reflect revenues/reimbursements that are a direct result of this legislation. In the event that the issues/projects associated with this ordinance/resolution have revenues or reimbursements that were, or will be, received because of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below. Do the revenue sources have match requirements? If so, what are they?)

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

3.c. Positions

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.
 (If this box is checked, please complete this section. If this box is not checked, please proceed to Other Implications)

Total Regular Positions Created, Modified, or Abrogated through this Legislation, Including FTE Impact:

Position # for Existing Positions	Position Title & Department*	Fund Name & #	Program & BCL	PT/FT	2015 Positions	2015 FTE	Does it sunset? (If yes, explain below in Position Notes)
TOTAL							

* List each position separately

(This table should only reflect the actual number of positions created by this legislation. In the event that positions have been, or will be, created as a result of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below.)

Position Notes:

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a) Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?

(If yes, explain here.)

b) Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

(Estimate the costs to the City of not implementing the legislation, including estimated costs to maintain or expand an existing facility or the cost avoidance due to replacement of an existing facility, potential conflicts with regulatory requirements, or other potential costs or consequences.)

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

(If so, please list the affected department(s), the nature of the impact (financial, operational, etc), and indicate which staff members in the other department(s) are aware of the proposed legislation.)

d) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

(If yes, what public hearing(s) have been held to date, and/or what public hearing(s) are planned for the future?)

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

(For example, legislation related to sale of surplus property, condemnation, or certain capital projects with private partners may require publication of notice. If you aren't sure, please check with your lawyer. If publication of notice is required, describe any steps taken to comply with that requirement.)

f) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

(If yes, and if a map or other visual representation of the property is not already included as an exhibit or attachment to the legislation itself, then you must include a map and/or other visual representation of the property and its location as an attachment to the fiscal note. Place a note on the map attached to the fiscal note that indicates the map is intended for illustrative or informational purposes only and is not intended to modify anything in the legislation.)

g) Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?

(If yes, please explain how this legislation may impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities. Using the racial equity toolkit is one way to help determine the legislation's impact on certain communities.)

**h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion:
What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how
this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.**

(This answer should highlight measureable outputs and outcomes.)

i) Other Issues:

List attachments/exhibits below: