



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

Res 31628

Record No.: Res 31628

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 2

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 10/13/2015

Final Action: 12/01/2015

**Title:**

A RESOLUTION relating to the Seattle Center Department; expressing support for a \$5,000,000 payment to the Seattle Opera for enhancements or other public benefits to the renovation or replacement of the Mercer Arena.

**Notes:**

Date  
Filed with City Clerk: 12/1/2015

Mayor's Signature: 12/1/2015

Sponsors: Licata

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

**Attachments:**

Drafter: adam.schaefer@seattle.gov

**Filing Requirements/Dept Action:**

**History of Legislative File**

Legal Notice Published:  Yes  No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Mayor	10/13/2015	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
	<b>Action Text:</b>		The Resolution (Res) was Mayor's leg transmitted to Council. to the City Clerk				
	<b>Notes:</b>						
1	City Clerk	10/20/2015	sent for review	Budget Committee			
	<b>Action Text:</b>		The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Budget Committee				
	<b>Notes:</b>						
1	Full Council	10/26/2015	referred	Budget Committee			
	<b>Action Text:</b>		The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the Budget Committee				
	<b>Notes:</b>						
1	Budget Committee	11/16/2015	adopt as amended				Pass
	<b>Action Text:</b>		The Committee recommends that Full Council adopt as amended the Resolution (Res).				
			In Favor: 7	Chair Licata, Member Bagshaw, Member Burgess, Member Godden, Member O'Brien, Member Rasmussen, Member Sawant			
			Opposed: 0				

Absent(NV): 1 Okamoto

1 Full Council 11/23/2015 adopted Pass

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote and the President signed the Resolution.  
Notes:

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember O'Brien, Okamoto, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

2 City Clerk 11/30/2015 submitted for Mayor  
Mayor's signature

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was submitted for Mayor's signature. to the Mayor  
Notes:

2 Mayor 12/01/2015 Signed

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was Signed.  
Notes:

2 Mayor 12/01/2015 returned City Clerk

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was returned. to the City Clerk  
Notes:

2 City Clerk 12/01/2015 attested by City Clerk

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.  
Notes:

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3 **CITY OF SEATTLE**  
4 **RESOLUTION** 31628  
5

6  
7 A RESOLUTION relating to the Seattle Center Department; expressing support for a \$5,000,000  
8 payment to the Seattle Opera for enhancements or other public benefits to the renovation or  
9 replacement of the Mercer Arena.

10  
11 WHEREAS, the Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan (“Plan”) is a 20-year management plan  
12 that contains Planning and Design Principles to guide redevelopment at the Seattle Center  
13 and encourages the use of public/private partnerships as one method to achieve  
14 redevelopment; and

15 WHEREAS, the Plan envisions that McCaw Hall and the Mercer Arena will be the permanent  
16 home for the Seattle Opera (“Opera”), including the location of administrative, rehearsal,  
17 and technical support facilities for the Opera. The Plan also envisions accomplishing the  
18 goals of the Theatre District Plan to enhance the vitality of performing arts venues along  
19 Mercer Street; and

20 WHEREAS, the Opera is a world-renowned performing arts organization that has presented arts  
21 programming that greatly enhance the cultural and economic life of the City; and

22 WHEREAS, the Opera requires a permanent home for its administrative, rehearsal, and technical  
23 support functions, and its planned Mercer Arena project is integral to the success of the  
24 Plan, the Seattle Center Theatre District, and the surrounding Uptown Urban Center; and

25 WHEREAS, the City and the Opera entered into a ground lease for the Opera’s use of Mercer  
26 Arena and Seattle Opera began paying rent for use of the Mercer Arena on June 30, 2014;  
27 and

1 WHEREAS, the Mercer Arena has been closed since 2003 due to seismic and code compliance  
2 deficiencies and currently produces no public benefits, and that although the Arena  
3 redevelopment to be undertaken by the Opera under the terms of lease will improve the  
4 facility, additional enhancements to the Arena will provide additional benefits to the  
5 City's facility and to the vitality of the Seattle Center; and

6 WHEREAS, the Plan re-envisioned the original Theatre District Plan to focus on enhancing and  
7 activating the performing arts venues on the south side of Mercer St., by providing public  
8 amenities along August Wilson Way, and by designating the City-owned two-block  
9 Mercer Garage for mixed-use redevelopment;

10 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that efforts are underway to establish an arts and cultural  
11 district in the Uptown Urban Center that, together with the potential redevelopment of the  
12 Kreielsheimer block on Mercer Street, could help realize the vision of the Theatre  
13 District;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
16 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

17 Section 1. The City Council requests the Executive propose legislation that would  
18 appropriate \$5,000,000 for a contract with Seattle Opera to enhance the Opera's redevelopment  
19 of the Mercer Arena. Any expenditures of the appropriation shall be subject to the following  
20 conditions:

21 A. No more than \$200,000 should be approved in the 2016 City budget. Appropriation of  
22 the remaining \$4,800,000 should be included in the City's Capital Improvement program for

1 review by the City Council in the 2017-18 biennial budget process so that, if this funding is  
2 appropriated by the Council, the funding may be available to Seattle Opera during 2017.

3           The contract shall require that the funds be used to enhance the redevelopment of the  
4 Mercer Arena in a manner that exceeds the Opera's obligations for redevelopment under the  
5 terms of the existing lease.

6           B. Additionally, the appropriation of the remaining \$4,800,000 should be contingent  
7 upon Seattle Opera's compliance with the following requirements contained in section 12 of the  
8 existing ground lease for the Mercer Arena between Seattle Opera and the City and summarized  
9 below:


10                   1. The proposed renovation shall be subject to review and comment by the Seattle  
11 Design Commission to the extent the Commission has authority to review that proposal.

12                   2. The proposed renovation shall be subject to review and comment by the City  
13 Council committee responsible for oversight of the Seattle Center.


14                   3. Seattle Opera shall have entered into a construction agreement with the City for  
15 the proposed renovation of the Mercer Arena before Seattle Opera executes a construction  
16 agreement with the general contractor for renovation of the Mercer Arena.

17                   4. Seattle Opera has demonstrated to the City Budget Director that Seattle Opera  
18 has sufficient financial resources to complete the proposed renovation of the Mercer Arena and  
19 the Budget Director, in the Budget Director's sole discretion, shall have determined that this  
20 standard is met. This section does not obligate the City to appropriate money to the Seattle  
21 Opera as described, nor does it bind or limit the authority of future City Councils to make  
22 decisions for funding renovation of the Mercer Arena in a manner different than that described  
23 here.

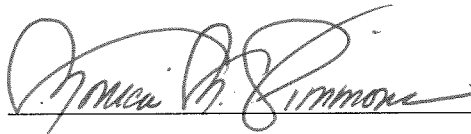
1 Adopted by the City Council the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of Nov., 2015, and signed  
2 by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 23<sup>rd</sup> day  
3 of Nov., 2015.

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5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

7 The Mayor concurred the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2015.

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9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

11  
12 Filed by me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2015.

13   
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

16  
17 (Seal)