

September 2, 1986
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Introduced by: Gruger/Sims/Grant
Sullivan/Greive/Barden
Proposed No.: 86-493

ORDINANCE NO. 7747

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the electors of King County at a special election to be held therein on November 4, 1986 in conjunction with the State-wide general election to be held on the same date, of a proposition authorizing the levy of a general tax each year for five consecutive years to be collected beginning in 1987, at an additional levy rate of not more than \$.025 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, estimated to provide approximately \$1.5 million annually, pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 as recently amended by Chapter 169, Laws of Washington of 1986, Regular Session, for the support of the acquisition and operation of an automated fingerprint identification computer system which will be used to improve the ability of law enforcement agencies to rapidly identify and convict felons and other criminals.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Findings and declaration of purpose. The council finds that:

A. Enactment of this ordinance is necessary for the health, welfare, benefit, and safety of the residents within King County.

B. Acquisition (which may be by purchase, lease, or other method) and implementation of an automated fingerprint identification system will greatly enhance the ability of the county sheriff and other local law enforcement agencies to apprehend dangerous felons and other criminals. The present fingerprint identification system employed by the county department of public safety requires manual comparisons of crime scene prints with the hundreds of thousands of criminal fingerprints already on file in the department. It would take months or even years to search all fingerprints on file for a match with fingerprints taken at the scene of a crime.

Therefore, fingerprint searches are only employed when a suspect

1 has already been identified. An automated fingerprint
2 identification system (AFIS) greatly enhances criminal
3 investigations because it compares crime scene prints with all
4 fingerprints on file in a police department in a matter of
5 minutes. This has allowed police departments which have
6 implemented AFIS systems to identify and convict more felons.

7 C. Acquisition and implementation of an automated
8 fingerprint identification system will greatly improve the
9 county's burglary conviction rate. At present, the county public
10 safety department only solves or clears 6.5% of all burglaries
11 committed each year. Police departments which have implemented
12 AFIS systems have reported as much as a fourfold increase in
13 their burglary solution rates. Conviction rates also improve
14 because positive fingerprint identification of a suspect in a
15 burglary case almost always leads to a conviction.

16 D. Upon approval of the voters of the proposition contained
17 in this ordinance, an automated fingerprint identification system
18 will be acquired by King County and will be available for use by
19 any public law enforcement agency within King County, without
20 charge, as provided in Sections 2 and 3 of this ordinance.

21 E. It is contemplated that the AFIS system be made
22 available, when capacity to do so exists, to police departments
23 such as the state and federal government and other jurisdictions
24 operating outside the boundaries of King County on a cost
25 reimbursement basis under contracts entered into with King
26 County. Such reimbursements will provide for full reimbursement
27 of the costs of such use.

28 F. The provision of automated fingerprint identification
29 services to law enforcement agencies operating in King County on
30 a county-wide basis is a public purpose of King County.
31 Considerations of efficiency also dictate that the county make
32 such services available as capacity to do so exists to
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1 jurisdictions operating outside the boundaries of King County on
2 a cost reimbursement basis.

3 G. In order to assure such provision of services, it is both
4 necessary and appropriate that an additional regular property tax
5 be collected to provide approximately \$1.5 million annually over
6 the five year levy period, by increasing the levy rate by not
7 more than \$.025 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation as provided for
8 in this ordinance.

9 H. A five-year levy has been proposed in order to provide
10 for review of the performance of the AFIS computer system. If at
11 the end of the five-year levy period the performance of this
12 system is determined to be effective, it is the council's
13 intention to propose a new multi-year levy to continue operation
14 and maintenance of the King County AFIS computer system. If
15 feasible, the council may alternatively propose funding AFIS
16 operating and maintenance expenses with County General Fund
17 revenues, but will not require cost-sharing arrangements with
18 other jurisdictions within King County if this alternative is
19 pursued.

20 SECTION 2. City and other jurisdictions' access. It is
21 recognized that the cities of King County and other local law
22 enforcement agencies such as the Port of Seattle provide law
23 enforcement services which are separate from the county. During
24 the period of this five-year levy as set forth herein and as
25 authorized by the qualified electors of King County, all tax
26 revenues collected pursuant to such five-year levy from taxable
27 property located within the legal boundaries of King County shall
28 be used by King County for the provision of automated fingerprint
29 identification services to King County residents, the cities
30 within King County, and other local law enforcement agencies
31 within King County. Such services may also be made available as
32 capacity to do so exists on a full cost reimbursable basis
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1 through contractual arrangements with King County to
2 jurisdictions such as the State and local governments operating
3 outside the boundaries of King County.

4 SECTION 3. Automated fingerprint identification services as
5 provided for herein shall include acquisition of one automated
6 fingerprint identification computer, peripheral workstations
7 together with necessary software and hardware, and provision for
8 hardware and software operations and maintenance expenses to
9 include system maintenance contracts, up to the equivalent of
10 three staff to use and operate the system, supplies, space rental
11 and other necessary support costs for the five year program. An
12 estimated contingency of approximately five percent is included.
13 The underlying financial plan for the system is provided in
14 Attachment A.

15 SECTION 4. Authorization of levy. The authorization for
16 this additional regular property tax levy for the support of
17 purchase and operation of an automated fingerprint identification
18 system is found in RCW 84.55.050, as most recently amended by
19 Chapter 169, Laws of Washington of 1986, Regular Session.

20 SECTION 5. Type of levy. Pursuant to the authorization in
21 RCW 84.55.050 as recently amended by Chapter 169, Laws of 1986,
22 Regular Session, this levy is a regular property tax levy which
23 is subject to the statutory tax rate limit of RCW 84.52.043 and
24 to the limitations imposed in RCW 84.55.050 as amended by Chapter
25 169, Laws of Washington of 1986, Regular Session.

26 SECTION 6. Deposit of funds. All funds collected under this
27 levy shall be deposited into the King County Automated
28 Fingerprint Identification System Fund which shall be established
29 by King County as a first tier fund and shall be invested for its
30 own benefit as set forth in KCC 4.10. This fund is hereby
31 established contingent only upon voter approval of this levy.
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1 enforcement agencies to rapidly identify and convict felons and
2 other criminals, all as provided in King County
3 Ordinance 7747.

4 Proposition, yes
5 Proposition, no

6 SECTION 9. The executive is hereby directed to take
7 whatever steps necessary to assure that the system purchased by
8 the county will be compatible with any system recommended by
9 the state patrol to the legislature.

10 SECTION 10. Severability. Should any section, subsection,
11 sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance be declared
12 unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, that determination
13 shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this
14 ordinance.

15 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 25th day
16 of August, 1986.

17 PASSED this 2nd day of September, 1986.

18 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
19 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

20 Audrey Gruger
21 CHAIR

22 ATTEST:

23
24 Dorothy M. Owens
25 Clerk of the Council

26 APPROVED this 4th day of September, 1986.
27 VETOED

28 Jim Hill
29 King County Executive

30 OVERRIDDEN BY A VOTE of 6-3 on this 5th day of September, 1986
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