

ORDINANCE NO. 2878

AN ORDINANCE providing for the creation of a Division of the Medical Examiner within the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health; amending Ordinance 163, Section 1, Section 6, Section 7 and KCC 2.24.030, and 2.24.060.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 163, Section 1, and KCC 2.24.030 are hereby amended as follows:

Apportionment of city and county contributions to health fund. (a) The proportionate share of the city and the county to be contributed and paid into the city-county health fund for the purpose above stated shall be determined by the following formula.

(b) The City of Seattle will pay annually the proportion of the joint use program equivalent to the ratio of the population within its city limits to that of the total of population of King County, and King County will pay annually the proportion of the joint use program equivalent to the ratio of the population within King County, exclusive of the City of Seattle, to the total population of King County.

(c) The official population figures to be used shall be the U. S. Census of 1950, and after 1950 shall be those issued by the Registrar of Vital Statistics of the State Health Department as of July 1, preceding each budget year.

(d) King County will pay the entire cost of functions required to be performed by the statutory office of coroner. All such duties and functions not assigned to the "Seattle-King County Department of Public Health" or necessary and incidental thereto, shall be ~~((performed-by-the-Department-of-Public-Safety))~~ vested in the County Executive.

SECTION 2. Ordinance 163, Section 6, and KCC 2.24.060 are hereby amended as follows:

Purpose of transfer of duties--duration of agreement.

1           The purpose of the aforesaid transfer of the duties of  
 2 the coroner is for the purpose of implementing the efficiency of  
 3 the operation of the function as authorized by Chapter 68 of the  
 4 Revised Code of Washington. The duration of this agreement shall  
 5 be ten years. It is the intent of this ordinance that the  
 6 Seattle-King County Department of Public Health perform the  
 7 services ascribed to the former coroner as defined by the statutes  
 8 of the State of Washington except for the function of conducting  
 9 inquests. The remaining duties of the former coroner relative to  
 10 conducting inquests are hereby ~~((transferred-to-the-Department-of  
 11 Public-Safety))~~ vested in the County Executive. ~~((The-Notice  
 12 required-by-RCW-68-08-020-shall-be-given-to-the-Seattle-King  
 13 County-Department-of-Public-Health:--The-Property-described-in  
 14 68-08-040-shall-be-delivered-to-the-Seattle-King-County  
 15 Department-of-Public-Health:--Income-and-expenditures-shall-be-in  
 16 accordance-with-Section-430-of-the-King-County-Home-Rule-Charter.))~~

17           SECTION 3. Ordinance 163, Section 7 is hereby amended to  
 18 read as follows:

19           SECTION 7. ~~((This-ordinance-shall-be-in-full-force-and  
 20 effect-on-and-after-January-17-1970.))~~

21           There is hereby established a division of the Medical  
 22 Examiner within the Seattle-King County Department of Public  
 23 Health. The division of the Medical Examiner shall be responsible  
 24 for the administration and staffing of all department programs  
 25 relating to the performance of autopsies and investigation of  
 26 death as authorized by the statutes of the State of Washington  
 27 except as provided by this ordinance. The division shall include  
 28 a Chief Medical Examiner, who shall be a pathologist certified in  
 29 Forensic Pathology; an administrator, and such staff as are  
 30 necessary to accomplish its duties. The management and  
 31 administration of the division shall be vested in the director of  
 32 the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, who shall  
 33 appoint a Chief Medical Examiner for the division pursuant to

1 Ordinance No. 1438. The Chief Medical Examiner shall have the  
2 responsibility for staffing the division in accordance with King  
3 County Career Service Personnel Rules; applicable personnel  
4 provisions of the Home Rule Charter and Council approved  
5 collective bargaining agreements. Employees of the Division of  
6 Medical Examiner, with the exception of specifically identified  
7 exempt positions, shall be members of the King County Career  
8 Service. The division, in order to facilitate efficiency and  
9 greater uniformity in carrying out its administrative and  
10 professional procedure shall:

11 (a) Assume jurisdiction over human remains, perform  
12 autopsies and perform such other functions as are authorized by  
13 RCW 68.08 and such other statutes of the State of Washington as  
14 are applicable, except for the holding of inquests, which  
15 function is vested in the County Executive.

16 (b) The Chief Medical Examiner shall be authorized to  
17 institute other procedures and policies to ensure investigation  
18 into the deaths of persons so specified in RCW 68.08 and to  
19 ensure the public health.

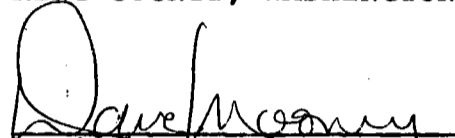
20 (c) The notice required by RCW 68.08.020 shall be given to  
21 the division of the Medical Examiner. The division shall be  
22 responsible for control and disposition of personal property of  
23 deceased persons under the jurisdiction of the division. Such  
24 personal property shall be transferred to the next of kin or  
25 other legal representatives of the deceased. If such transfer  
26 cannot be made because there is not known next of kin or legal  
27 representative, or they are not available to accomplish the

1 transfer within thirty days after the division assumes  
2 jurisdiction over the body of the deceased, the personal property  
3 shall be deposited with the King County Comptroller, or  
4 transferred to an attorney pursuant to the institution of probate  
5 action.

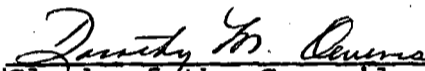
6 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 6th day of  
7 July, 1976.

8 PASSED this 13th day of September, 1976.

9  
10 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

11   
12 Chairman

13 ATTEST:

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16 Deputy Clerk of the Council

17 APPROVED this 16th day of September, 1976.

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19 King County Executive

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