

76-779

ORDINANCE NO. 2914

AN ORDINANCE relating to the operation of taxicabs and for-hire vehicles, their drivers; amending Ordinance 1120 Sections 1,2,3,6,7,10,17,18,29,30,37, and 38 and K.C.C. 6.64.010,.020,.030,.060,.070,.100,.170,.180,.290,.300,.370 and .380; repealing Ordinance 1120, Section 4 and K.C.C. 6.64.040.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 1120, Section 1 and K.C.C. 6.64.010 are hereby amended as follows:

Definitions. For purposes of this chapter and unless the context plainly requires otherwise;

(a) "Director of the King County public safety department" means the director and any of his duly authorized representatives;

(b) "Enforcement officer" means the director and his duly authorized representatives, or the director of the King County public safety department and his duly authorized representatives;

(c) "For-hire driver" means any person in charge of or driving a taxicab or for-hire vehicle carrying passengers or baggage for hire, as hereinafter further defined; provided, however, that the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to drivers of motor vehicles operated by any municipal or privately owned, licensed transit system;

(d) "For-hire vehicle" wherever used in this chapter means and includes every motor vehicle other than a "sightseeing car or charter bus" having a seating capacity of seven passengers or more, as per manufacturer's rating, used for the transportation of passengers for hire, and not operated exclusively over a fixed and definite route; Provided, however, that this definition does not include a motor vehicle with a seating capacity, including the driver, not exceeding fifteen persons which operates to

1 transport passengers between their places of abode, or termini near  
2 such places, and their places of employment, in a single, daily  
3 round trip where the driver is also on the way to or from his/her  
4 place of employment;

5 (e) "Taxicab" means every motor vehicle having a seating  
6 capacity of six passengers or less as per manufacturer's rating,  
7 used for the transportation of passengers for hire, and not  
8 operated over a fixed and definite route;

9 (f) "Taximeter" means any instrument or device by which  
10 the charge for hire of a passenger carrying vehicle is mechanically  
11 measured or calculated either for the distance traveled by such  
12 vehicle or for waiting time, or for both, and upon which such  
13 calculated charges shall be indicated by means of figures:

14 (g) "Motor vehicle" means every self-propelled vehicle by  
15 or upon which any person may be transported or carried upon a  
16 public street, highway, or alley; provided that vehicles used  
17 exclusively upon stationary rail tracks or propelled by the use of  
18 overhead electric wires, or for hotel or motel keepers conveying  
19 their guests to and from hotels or motels free of charge or reward  
20 and used exclusively for that purpose only, shall not come under  
21 the provisions of this chapter.

22 (h) "Engage in the business of operating any taxicab or  
23 vehicle for-hire" means the pickup and transportation of any fare-  
24 paying passenger from a point within the geographical confines of  
25 unincorporated King County, whether or not the vehicle is dispatch-  
26 ed from a taxicab stand or office within any other municipal  
27 corporation, and whether or not the ultimate destination or route  
28 of travel is within the confines of unincorporated King County;  
29 provided, that nothing in this chapter shall be construed to apply  
30 to taxicabs or for-hire vehicles licensed by any other municipal

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1 corporation and transporting passengers from a point within the  
2 licensing municipality to a destination outside thereof, whether  
3 or not the ultimate destination or route traveled is within  
4 unincorporated King County.

5 SECTION 2. Ordinance 1120, Section 2 and K.C.C. 6.64.020 are  
6 hereby amended as follows:

7 License-Applications. It is unlawful to own, operate or  
8 engage in the business of operating a taxicab or for-hire car in  
9 the unincorporated areas of King County without first having  
10 obtained, for each and every vehicle so used, a license from the  
11 director, to be known as a for-hire or taxicab license. Licenses  
12 shall be obtained in the following manner and under the following  
13 conditions:

14 (a) The applicant for such license, in a manner approved  
15 by the director shall show in his application: the true name and  
16 address of the applicant, and if a corporation, the names and  
17 addresses of the principal officers and shareholders thereof, the  
18 classification under which the vehicle will be operated, whether  
19 as taxicab or other vehicle for hire; the year for which the  
20 license is sought and shall furnish full, true and accurate inform-  
21 ation concerning the ownership, identification, company vehicle  
22 number, the name of the business, fictitious or otherwise under  
23 which the vehicle is to be operated, the distinguishing color  
24 scheme, design or dress, including any monogram or insignia to be  
25 used on such vehicle or vehicles, the number of days and the  
26 mileage for each day of operation for any or all vehicles operated  
27 by the applicant under any license issued under the provisions of  
28 this chapter or any prior ordinance of King County regulating  
29 taxicabs and for-hire vehicles for the year preceding the yearly  
30 period specified in the application; whether he has been convicted

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1 of any violation within ten years preceding the date of application  
 2 related to the sale or possession of intoxicating liquor, gambling  
 3 or any law or ordinance relating to public morality and decency, or  
 4 for violating any law or ordinance involving an intent to defraud,  
 5 or whether the applicant has ever been convicted of any law or  
 6 ordinance relating to the use, sale or possession of narcotic drugs  
 7 or barbituates, or any such other information the director may  
 8 require, which he deems reasonably necessary to aid in the enforce-  
 9 ment of this chapter.

10 (b) The director shall inquire into the correctness of the  
 11 information furnished, and if so satisfied, after due investigation,  
 12 that the applicant is the reliable and bona fide owner of the motor  
 13 vehicle, has met the various requirements of this chapter that the  
 14 name under which the applicant is to operate and the color scheme  
 15 used upon the motor vehicle does not conflict with others so used,  
 16 or tend to deceive the public, that the motor vehicle is equipped  
 17 with proper state license and City of Seattle license, if applic-  
 18 able, and is properly insured for the protection of the public as  
 19 required by law, and that there is a bona fide need for taxicab or  
 20 for-hire service in the unincorporated area of King County, a  
 21 license may thereupon be issued in accordance with the provisions  
 22 of this chapter, authorizing the operation of the motor vehicle  
 23 under the classification applied for; Provided, however, that no  
 24 new licenses to engage in the business of operating a taxicab  
 25 shall be issued after the effective date of this ordinance for a  
 26 period of six months or until a form of joint or reciprocal  
 27 licensing and enforcement is adopted by King County and the City of  
 28 Seattle, pursuant to King County Motion No. 2362 and City of  
 29 Seattle Resolution No. 25223, whichever is sooner; Provided  
 30 further, that licenses may be issued during this period to any  
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1 person who holds a valid City of Seattle Taxicab license on the  
 2 effective date of this ordinance for a fee of \$25.00, said license  
 3 to be valid for a period of six months or until a form of joint  
 4 or reciprocal licensing and enforcement is adopted by King County  
 5 and the City of Seattle, pursuant to their respective motion and  
 6 resolution; and said license will only be valid if the City of  
 7 Seattle adopts a similar restriction on new City of Seattle  
 8 taxicab licenses and allows a person holding a valid King County  
 9 Taxicab license to obtain a City of Seattle taxicab license in a  
 10 manner identical with this section. ((The-license-shall-be  
 11 effective-for-one-year-from-the-date-license-is-granted.))

12 (c) A license may be denied to any person if the director,  
 13 after due investigation, has reason to believe that the applicant  
 14 is dishonest or immoral, desires such license to enable him to  
 15 engage in a dishonest, unlawful, or immoral act, practice or  
 16 enterprise. Wilful falsification or omission of any information  
 17 required in the application shall constitute grounds for denial  
 18 of the license.

19 (d) No license shall be transferable to any person except  
 20 in case of a bona fide sale of the business of the owner or  
 21 operator of the motor vehicle and no license shall be transferred  
 22 to any other motor vehicle without approval of the director and  
 23 then only in cases where the motor vehicle for which the license  
 24 is issued shall be sold, become obsolete, unsafe or unfit for  
 25 further use. Such determination shall be made by the director and  
 26 his determination shall be conclusive. All county licensed  
 27 taxicabs shall be operated for at least ten miles per day for two  
 28 hundred thirty days of the licensed year, nor shall any new  
 29 taxicab license be issued to any person holding a license which  
 30 lapses because of failure to meet the foregoing requirement in the  
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1 next preceding licensed year; provided, however, that the director,  
2 upon good cause shown, may waiver the foregoing requirement.

3 SECTION 3. Ordinance 1120, Section 3 and K.C.C 6.64.030 are  
4 hereby amended as follows:

5 Taxicabs, maximum number. The maximum number of  
6 taxicabs authorized to operate and for which licenses may be issued  
7 shall be based upon the population of unincorporated King County  
8 as determined by the last preceding United States census, at the  
9 ratio of one taxicab to each forty-four hundred inhabitants;  
10 provided that this limitation shall not affect taxicabs in opera-  
11 tion under license on the effective date of the ordinance codified  
12 in this section, except as such vehicles are abandoned through  
13 inability of operators to meet the requirements of this chapter;  
14 provided, further, that this limitation shall not apply during the  
15 period specified in Section 2(b) of this ordinance.

16 SECTION 4. Ordinance 1120, Section 6 and K.C.C. 6.64.060 are  
17 hereby amended as follows:

18 Expiration of licenses and license fees. All licenses  
19 issued under this chapter shall expire (~~one-year-from-the-date-the~~  
20 ~~license-was-granted~~) on August 31 of each year. Such licenses may  
21 be renewed by the license holder for the succeeding year by making  
22 application thereof with the director at least ten days prior to  
23 the expiration date.

24 The expiration date for licenses issued pursuant to Section  
25 2(b) of this ordinance shall be that date as stated in Section  
26 2(b) of this ordinance,

27 SECTION 5. Ordinance 1120, Section 7 and K.C.C. 6.64.070 are  
28 hereby amended as follows:

29 Unlawful to operate taxicab or for-hire vehicle without  
30 liability insurance. No such license shall be issued unless the  
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1 applicant therefore files with the director ((satisfactory  
 2 evidenee)) a certified copy or copies of a policy or policies of  
 3 public liability insurance, issued by an insurance company or  
 4 companies authorized to do business in the State of Washington.  
 5 The policy or policies shall ((be-in-the-minimum-sum-of-one-hundred  
 6 thousand-dollars-for-the-injury-or-death-of-one-person,-including  
 7 the-passenger,-three-hundred-thousand-dollars-for-the-injury-or  
 8 death-of-more-than-one-person,-including-the-passenger,-in-any-one  
 9 accident,-and-fifty-thousand-dollars-for-property-damage)) specify  
 10 minimum coverage as prescribed by RCW 46.72, as now or hereafter  
 11 amended. The policy or policies shall, in addition, by endorse-  
 12 ment or otherwise, name King County as an additional insured and  
 13 provide that King County, its officers, agents, and employees,  
 14 shall be indemnified and held harmless from any loss, or claim or  
 15 suit for damages or injury from the use or operation of the vehicle  
 16 for which such permit is to be issued, and shall further provide  
 17 that not less than ((ten)) thirty days' written notice shall be  
 18 given to the director in the event of any change or cancellation.  
 19 Such insurance shall be maintained in full force and effect for the  
 20 full period to be covered by the permit applied for and failure to  
 21 do so shall result in the automatic suspension of such permit.

22 SECTION 6. Ordinance 1120, Section 10 and K.C.C. 6.64.100 are  
 23 hereby amended as follows:

24 Rate schedule. Every licensee shall, before commencing  
 25 operation, file with the director his proposed schedule of rates  
 26 and charges. It is unlawful for any licensee to charge any greater  
 27 or lesser sum than is specified by such filed schedule of rates,  
 28 except as herein provided, and it is unlawful to make any discrim-  
 29 inatory charges to any person, or to make any rebate or in any  
 30 manner reduce the charge to any person unless such reduction is in

1 conformity with the schedule, and rates and charges shall be  
2 conspicuously displayed in the taxicab so as to be readily discern-  
3 ible to the passenger. Operation of any taxicab or for-hire  
4 vehicle without the filing and display of rate schedules shall be  
5 prima facie grounds for the suspension or revocation of the  
6 license.

7 (a) To facilitate cooperation, the rate schedule for  
8 taxicabs shall temporarily be the same as that set by  
9 the City of Seattle as follows:

10 For one passenger for the first one-~~((sixth))~~ seventh  
11 mile or fraction thereof. . . . . ~~((\$.80))~~ \$.90  
12 Thereafter for each additional one-~~((sixth))~~ seventh  
13 mile or fraction thereof . . . . . \$.10  
14 For every one minute of waiting time . . . . . \$.12  
15 ~~((Per each additional passenger-----\$.20))~~

16 ~~((~~) No additional passenger shall be picked up without the  
17 express consent of the original passenger.~~((~~)

18 (b) The rate schedule for "for-hire vehicles" shall be  
19 determined for each licensee by the director, who shall take into  
20 account, among other things, and with the objective of prescribing  
21 a just and reasonable rate the following factors:

- 22 (1) The public need for adequate "for-hire vehicles"  
23 service at the lowest level of charges consistent with the pro-  
24 vision, maintenance and renewal of such service;
- 25 (2) The rates of other licensees operating in the same or  
26 similar areas;
- 27 (3) The effect of such rates upon transportation of pass-  
28 engers by other modes of transportation;
- 29 (4) The licensee's need for revenue of a level which  
30 under honest, efficient and economical management is sufficient to  
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1 cover the cost (including all operating expenses, depreciation  
2 accruals, rents, license fee and taxes of every kind) of providing  
3 adequate "for-hire vehicles" service, plus an amount equal to such  
4 percentage of the cost as is reasonably necessary for the re-  
5 placement of deteriorated "for-hire vehicles" and a reasonable  
6 profit to the licensee. The relation of revenues to expenses may  
7 be deemed the proper test of a reasonable profit.

8 (c) ((Any person, partnership, corporation or legal entity  
9 driving or operating or engaged in the business of operating tax-  
10 icabs, may contract their services to any legally established  
11 commercial enterprises, such as, apartment house complexes, motels,  
12 airlines, manufacturing companies, for rates below those as est-  
13 ablished herein, with approval of the director of licenses. --After  
14 approval by the director of licenses, a copy of the contract be-  
15 tween the licensee and the commercial enterprise shall be filed  
16 with the director of licenses in triplicate. --No business shall be  
17 conducted prior to the director's approval.

18 ((d) --The rate schedule for the taxicabs entering into  
19 contractual service shall be determined for each licensee by the  
20 director, who shall take into account, among other things, and with  
21 the objective of prescribing a just and reasonable rate, the  
22 following factors:

23 (1) --The public need for adequate taxicabs entering into  
24 contractual service at the lowest level of charges consistent with  
25 the provision, maintenance and renewal of such service;

26 (2) --The rates of other licensees operating in the same or  
27 similar areas;

28 (3) --The effect of such rates upon transportation of pass-  
29 engers by other modes of transportation;

30 (4) --The licensee's need for revenue of a level which under  
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1 honest, efficient and economical management, is sufficient to  
 2 cover the cost (including all operating expenses, depreciation  
 3 accruals, rents, license fees and taxes of every kind) of providing  
 4 adequate contract taxi vehicle service, plus an amount of equal to  
 5 such percentage of the cost as is reasonably necessary for the  
 6 replacement of deteriorated contract taxi vehicles and a reasonable  
 7 profit to the licensee. (The relation of revenues to expenses may  
 8 be deemed the proper test of a reasonable profit.)

9 The rates specified in this section for taxicabs and for-hire cars  
 10 shall not apply to transportation of persons provided pursuant to  
 11 a written contract which establishes a fare at a different rate  
 12 for specified transportation: provided that no contract may in-  
 13 clude any provision(s) the effect of which is to directly or in-  
 14 directly require exclusive use of the transportation services of  
 15 the contracting taxicab company or for-hire car. The contract  
 16 period shall not exceed one year, and a copy of the contract,  
 17 signed by all parties, must be filed with the director of licenses  
 18 at least three days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays,  
 19 prior to commencement of such transportation services.

20 SECTION 7. Ordinance 1120, Section 17 and K.C.C. 6.64.170  
 21 are hereby amended as follows:

22 Trip sheets. It is unlawful for any person owning or op-  
 23 erating any taxicab or for-hire vehicle, to fail to keep an  
 24 accurate daily record on a trip sheet, the form and size to be  
 25 determined and approved by the director. All daily trip sheets  
 26 shall be kept on file for a period of ((five)) two years at the  
 27 address for which the vehicle for-hire license is issued. All  
 28 daily trip sheets shall be open for inspection by the director  
 29 either while carried in the vehicle for-hire or at the address  
 30 of the licensee.

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1 It is unlawful for any taxicab or for hire driver to fail or  
2 refuse to turn in his trip sheet or moneys collected from taxi-trip  
3 fares to his employer or his duly authorized agent at the end of  
4 each shift worked.

5 The following information shall be contained on each trip  
6 sheet:

7 (1) The driver's name as licensed and for-hire driver's  
8 license number;

9 (2) The driver's residence address and telephone number;

10 (3) The company name and vehicle number;

11 (4) The date, time and place of origin and dismissal of  
12 each trip (including trips where the passenger did not complete an  
13 actual trip);

14 (5) The fare ((paid)) collected or to be charged;

15 (6) The number of passengers paying or not paying and any  
16 other items for which a charge was or was not made;

17 (7) The beginning and ending speedometer mileage of the  
18 vehicle for each shift worked;

19 (8) The beginning and ending time for each shift worked;

20 (9) The beginning and ending meter readings for each shift  
21 worked;

22 (10) If the trip is made pursuant to a contract as specified  
23 in Section 6(c) of this ordinance, the trip sheet shall also show  
24 the fare as indicated by the meter and an identification of the  
25 contract under which the transportation is provided.

26 The driver of any taxicab or for-hire vehicle shall, on re-  
27 quest of any passenger paying him a fare for any trip, issue a re-  
28 ceipt showing such information for said trip.

29 Failure to keep an accurate daily trip sheet or the with-  
30 holding of a trip sheet or fare moneys collected by a for-hire  
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1 driver from his employer or his duly authorized agent, shall be  
2 grounds for suspension or revocation of his for-hire driver's  
3 license.

4 SECTION 8. Ordinance 1120, Section 18 and K.C.C. 6.64.180  
5 are hereby amended as follows:

6 Display of license. Every owner or operator of any taxicat  
7 or for-hire vehicle shall at all times carry in such vehicle per-  
8 mits issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles of the State of  
9 Washington and the City of Seattle, if applicable, showing such ve  
10 hicle to be properly insured for the protection of the public, and  
11 also the licenses and permits issued pursuant to this chapter.

12 SECTION 9. Ordinance 1120, Section 29 and K.C.C. 6.64.290  
13 are hereby amended as follows:

14 Licensing fees. It is unlawful to engage in the business  
15 of operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle as defined in this chap  
16 ter without first having obtained a valid and subsisting license t  
17 do so. This license shall be known and the fee shall be as follow

18 (a) Taxicab license . . . \$150.00 per (~~12-months-(Per~~  
19 ~~each-such-vehicle))~~) vehicles, prorated semiannually; Provided,  
20 however, that the renewal fee for all taxicabs possessing valid Ki  
21 County taxicab licenses on the effective date of this ordinance  
22 shall be \$100.00 per vehicle per license year; Further provided,  
23 that said \$100.00 renewal fee will effective only if the City of  
24 Seattle adopts provisions identical to Section 2(b) of this ordin-  
25 ance.

26 (b) For-hire vehicle license . . . . \$100.00 per (~~12~~  
27 ~~months-(Per-each-vehicle))~~) vehicle, prorated semiannually.

28 SECTION 10. Ordinance 1120, Section 30 and K.C.C. 6.64.300  
29 are hereby amended as follows:

30 For-hire driver's license required - Application. It is  
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1 unlawful for any person to drive or operate a taxicab or for-hire  
 2 vehicle in the unincorporated areas of King County without first  
 3 having obtained a valid and subsisting license to do so, which lic-  
 4 ense shall be known as a for-hire driver's license; provided, how-  
 5 ever, that this section shall not apply to driver's of taxicabs and  
 6 for-hire vehicles licensed by King County pursuant to Section 2(b)  
 7 of this ordinance; Further provided, that this shall not relieve  
 8 any such for-hire or taxicab driver from complying with the pro-  
 9 visions of this ordinance, and failure to comply may result in the  
 10 suspension or revocation of authority to drive a for-hire vehicle  
 11 or taxicab within the unincorporated areas of King County. The  
 12 license shall be obtained in the following manner:

13         The applicant shall file an application on a form furnished  
 14 by the director, which shall be signed and sworn to by the applic-  
 15 ant and shall contain: Name, height, weight, color of hair and  
 16 eyes, residence address, place and date of birth, length of time  
 17 a resident of the State of Washington, whether a citizen or non-  
 18 citizen, last place of employment, whether or not the license was  
 19 ever suspended or revoked and for what cause, and such other infor-  
 20 mation as may reasonably be required. The applicant shall on the  
 21 application give the names and mailing addresses of four persons,  
 22 not relatives, who have known the applicant for at least two years  
 23 past.

24         SECTION 11. Ordinance 1120, Section 37 and K.C.C. 6.64.370  
 25 are hereby amended as follows:

26         Expiration and renewals of for-hire driver's licenses. All  
 27 for-hire driver's licenses shall expire one year from day license  
 28 was granted and must be renewed within ten days from the date of  
 29 expiration, except as otherwise herein provided. Applications for  
 30 renewal shall be made to the director and shall contain such in-  
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formation as he may deem necessary, whereupon he may renew the license for a period of one year; provided, however, (~~that a person whose for-hire driver's license has expired and who is not engaged in the business or occupation of driving taxicabs in King County may have his license renewed within six months from date of expiration and provided further,~~) that in the event it appears that the licensee has become physically or mentally incapacitated to a degree so as to make the driving of an automobile or other motor vehicle by the licensee a danger to the public, that the director may require the licensee to be reexamined by (~~the Seattle-King County health department~~) a licensed physician and procure from that (~~department~~) physician, a satisfactory certificate before such for-hire driver's license may be renewed.

SECTION 12. Ordinance 1120, Section 38 and K.C.C. 6.64.380 are hereby amended as follows:

For-hire driver's license fee. The fees for a for-hire driver's license shall be as follows: For each original license

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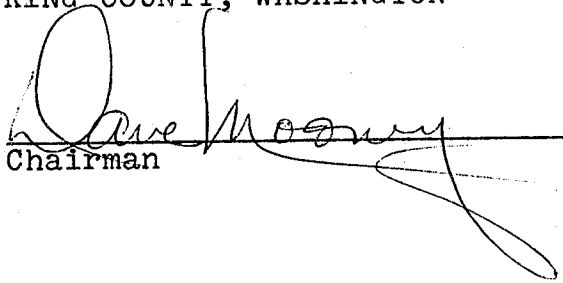
fifteen dollars: for each renewal thereof, ((five)) ten dollars.  
((No charge shall be made by the Seattle-King-County health de-  
partment for examining applicants for for-hire driver's licenses.))

SECTION 13. Ordinance 1120, Section 4 and K.C.C. 6.64.040  
are hereby repealed.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 7<sup>th</sup> day of  
September, 1976.

PASSED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 1976

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

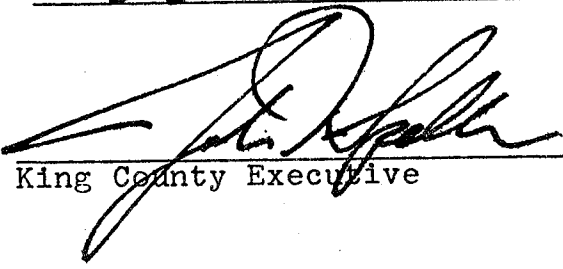
  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Clerk of the Council



APPROVED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1976

  
King County Executive