

INTRODUCED BY: Bob Greive

PROPOSED NO.: 84-154

ORDINANCE NO. 6747

1 AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$280,085 to the
2 Veteran Aids program, \$245,085 from anticipated
3 1984 revenues and \$35,000 from the fund balance
4 in the Veteran's Relief Fund, established under
RCW 73.08, and amending Ordinance No. 6597,
Section 43, as amended; and declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

6 SECTION 1. There is hereby approved and adopted an appro-
7 priation of \$280,085 to the Veteran's Aid program, \$245,085 from
8 anticipated 1984 revenues and \$35,000 from the fund balance in
9 the Veteran's Relief Fund.

10 SECTION 2. Ordinance No. 6597, Section 43, as amended, is
11 hereby amended to read as follows:

12 From the Veteran's Relief Fund there is hereby appropriated
13 to:

14 Veteran's Aid ((~~\$140,033~~)) \$420,118

15 PROVIDED THAT:

16 All provisos adopted by council in Ordinance No. 6597,
17 Section 43, as amended, shall be fulfilled.

18 SECTION 3. The county council finds as a fact and declares
19 that an emergency exists and that this ordinance is necessary for
20 the immediate preservation of public peace, health or safety or
21 for the support of county government and its existing public
22 institutions.

23 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 9th day of
24 April, 1984.

25 PASSED this 9th day of April, 1984.

26 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
27 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

28 Gary Grant
29 Chairman

30 ATTEST:

31 Dorothy M. Owens
Clerk of the Council

32 APPROVED this 19th day of April, 1984.

33 Randy L. Walker
King County Executive

6747

KING COUNTY VETERANS PROGRAM

PROPOSED SERVICES FOR 1984

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
PETER M. JAMERO, DIRECTOR
FEBRUARY 28, 1984

1984 Budget Proviso

King County Ordinance 6597, adopting the 1984 Budget, provided only the first four months of funding for Veterans Aid. The remaining funding was to be considered after the fulfillment of the following proviso:

"1. The balance of the Executive's recommended budget for Veteran's Aid for 1984 (\$280,085) will be considered by the Council following receipt of a report from the Executive which explores opportunities for contracting with outside agencies for job placement services."

Background

The Veterans Relief Fund, established pursuant to RCW 73.08.010 and 73.08.080, has been used to provide assistance to indigent veterans who have resided in the state of Washington for at least one year at the time that they apply for assistance. The legislation does not provide any guidance as to what type of assistance should be given other than stating in the statute the following:

"...shall provide sum or sums of money as may be necessary..."

In King County, the Veterans Relief fund has been used primarily for emergency financial assistance for veterans who qualify under the statute. Generally, this has included short term financial assistance with rent payments, utilities and food.

In addition, the Veterans Program has provided employment

assistance to veterans seeking a job. An in-house bank of prospective employers is kept on file and referrals are made to these employers. When time permits, the Veterans Program staff also engage in job development activities to expand job opportunities for eligible veterans.

Finally, the Veterans Program has placed veterans in jobs within King County government and provided apprenticeship training opportunities in certain areas.

Results of Employment Efforts

The high unemployment rate in the King County area has not escaped veterans. In fact, statistics collected by the local Private Industry Council indicate that the unemployment rate among veterans is almost double the overall rate of unemployment in King County. Most recent statistics (1983 data) indicate an unemployment rate approaching 20% for veterans in King County.

The high unemployment rate among veterans has led to a marked increase in requests for financial assistance. As a consequence, staff in the veterans program office have been forced to spend greater amounts of time addressing these requests and have had less time available to assist with job development and placement.

The following statistics show the increase in veterans requesting aid and employment assistance during 1983 and the attendant drop off in job placements.

I. VETERAN'S REQUESTING AID

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% change</u>
1st quarter	964	1077	12 %
2nd quarter	833	1059	27 %
3rd quarter	910	1262	39 %
4th quarter	<u>992</u>	<u>1281</u>	<u>29 %</u>
TOTAL	3699	4679	26 % Total Increase

II. VETERANS REQUESTING EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% change</u>
1st quarter	974	966	(1)%
2nd quarter	881	1244	41 %
3rd quarter	1175	1366	16 %
4th quarter	<u>1090</u>	<u>1455</u>	<u>33 %</u>
TOTAL	4120	5031	22 % Total Increase

III. JOB PLACEMENTS (ACTUAL)

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% change</u>
1st quarter	50	36	(28)%
2nd quarter	66	39	(41)%
3rd quarter	62	56	(10)%
4th quarter	<u>51</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>12 %</u>
TOTAL	229	188	(18)% Total Decrease

Change in Program Focus

In response to County Council concerns about employment and counseling services provided by the Veterans Program, in 1983 the Department of Human Resources reviewed these services and recommended an increased emphasis on providing employment assistance. In the course of this review, it was determined that fostering self-sufficiency through employment assistance should become a high priority.

It was also determined that the King County Veterans Program had insufficient funding to focus on both employment and counseling services. To address the latter need, the Veterans Program staff has started to work cooperatively with Seattle Veterans Action Committee (Sea-Vac) to ensure that adequate counseling services are provided to King County veterans. Sea-Vac has been providing counseling services for over ten years and these services are provided to residents of King King County as well as residents of the city of Seattle (approximately 38% served are King County residents). It was determined that, since our resources are limited, we should work cooperatively with Sea-Vac to ensure that there would be no duplication of services, but that counseling needs would be met.

1984 Proposed Employment Services

As demonstrated by the previous statistics and based on the 1983 review conducted by the Department of Human Resources, it became clear that the Veterans Program should increase its emphasis on providing employment assistance.

Consequently, the 1984 Executive Proposed Budget included funding to implement two new pilot programs directed at job placement of veterans. The County Council adopted only the

first four months funding for the Veterans Program, pending the receipt of this report.

The two programs recommended by the Executive to address employment needs of veterans are:

1. A Self-Directed Job Placement Program

The budget includes \$35,000 to contract with an outside agency to provide job placement services for about 40 veterans. King County has not used this method in the past; therefore, we anticipate an evaluation at the end of the program to determine whether it is an effective means of assisting veterans. It has been used quite effectively in other veterans programs and with other target populations. We anticipate releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a service provider when funding is appropriated.

2. A Part-Time Job Developer Position

The staff in the Veterans Program office are not specifically trained to do job development and placement. With the growing need for this expertise, the budget provides \$11,000, to hire a part-time job developer. This position would be temporary for the first year to allow for a full evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of the new service.

It is anticipated that the contracted services component and the part-time job developer will increase job opportunities and placements for King County Veterans.

To further emphasize this area, the Veterans Program is working out a non-financial agreement with Employment Security and the Veterans Administration to share job bank information and to assist veterans with their federal benefit package. In addition, we are working closely with the Private Industry

Council to ensure veterans are adequately served by the Jobs Training Partnership Act monies.

Finally, a new federal jobs bill program to re-train veterans and to partially reimburse employers during the training period is underway. We are cooperating with the Veterans Administration, Employment Security and private employers to place veterans through this program. We are also working with the King County personnel office to take advantage of the program in King County.

It is our expectation that the employment initiatives and the shift in focus during 1984 will lead to increased job placements and foster greater self-sufficiency among the veterans in King County.

MMcL:ps
2/28/84