

September 21, 1988  
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INTRODUCED BY: Bruce Laing

PROPOSED NO.: 88-357

ORDINANCE NO.

**8766**

AN ORDINANCE relating to assigning road names and building addresses, and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 16, entitled Roads Names and Addressing Buildings.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a new chapter to be added to K.C.C. Title 16 entitled Roads Names and Addressing Buildings.

SECTION 2. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a new section to read as follows:

Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to grant building and land development division, hereafter called the division, the authority to assign road names and numbers, and address the principal entrances of all buildings or other uses in conformance with the grid system adopted by King County Resolution 16622.

SECTION 3. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a new section to read as follows:

Road Designations. A. Public or private roads shall be designated within the guidelines of the grid system as determined by the division. Named roads can only be assigned when the numbered grid is determined infeasible by the division. The division may redesignate existing private roads if such roads are determined to be inconsistent with the surrounding road designation system.

B. All roads shall carry a geographic suffix or prefix. Roads designated as avenues shall carry a geographic suffix and be in a north-south direction, and roads designated as streets shall carry a geographic prefix and be in an east-west direction. Diagonal roads are treated as being either north-south or east-west roads. Names such as place, way, court, and drive, may be used on a road running either direction.

C. Appeals of designations shall be heard directly by the council.

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1           SECTION 4. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a new section to  
2 read as follows:

3           Building addresses. A. The assignment of addresses for new  
4 buildings will occur in conjunction with the issuance of a  
5 building permit.

6           B. The assignment of addresses shall be based on the  
7 following criteria: even numbers shall be used on the northerly  
8 side of roads named as east-west and on the easterly side of roads  
9 named as north-south. Odd numbers shall be used on the southerly  
10 side of roads named as east-west and on the westerly side of roads  
11 named as north-south. Addresses shall be assigned whole numbers  
12 only.

13           C. Should the division find that any building, structure, or  
14 premise is not provided with an address, is not correctly  
15 addressed, or is not using the assigned address, it shall notify  
16 the owner, agent, or renter of the correct address. The address  
17 number shall be properly placed in accordance with the provisions  
18 of this section, by the effective date shown upon the notice. It  
19 shall be unlawful for any owner, agent, or renter to display,  
20 advertise or use the wrong address after notification by the  
21 division.

22           SECTION 5. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a new section to  
23 read as follows:

24           Uncertainty of road designations or addresses. Whenever there  
25 is doubt or difference of opinion as to the correct road  
26 designation or correct address, the road designation or address  
27 shall be determined by the division and shall be guided by the  
28 specific provisions of this chapter or by rules promulgated  
29 pursuant to K.C.C. 2.98 to carry out the intent of this chapter.

30           SECTION 6. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a new section to  
31 read as follows:

32           Maintenance. A. The owner, occupant, or renter of any  
33 addressed building or other structure shall maintain the address

1 in a conspicuous place over or near the principal entrance or  
2 entrances or in such other conspicuous place as is necessary for  
3 visually locating such address.

4 B. The address numbers shall be easily legible figures, not  
5 less than three inches high if a residential use or individual  
6 multi-family unit, nor less than five inches high if a commercial  
7 use. Numbers shall contrast with the color of the building or  
8 structure upon which they are placed, and shall either be  
9 illuminated during periods of darkness, or be reflective, so they  
10 are easily seen at night.

11 SECTION 7. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a new section to  
12 read as follows:

13 Records. The division shall maintain the official record of  
14 current addresses.

15 SECTION 8. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a new section to  
16 read as follows:

17 Enforcement. The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced  
18 pursuant to Title 23.

19 SECTION 9. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a new section to  
20 read as follows:

21 Severability. Should any section, subsection, paragraph,  
22 sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional or  
23 invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the  
24 validity of the remaining portions to this chapter.

25 NEW SECTION. SECTION 10. There is added to K.C.C. Title 16 a  
26 new section to read as follows:

27 Council redesignation of streets. A. Notwithstanding the  
28 provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this ordinance, the county  
29 council reserves the option of changing street names or changing  
30 numbered streets to named streets. Applications to the council  
31 for street renaming shall contain the signatures of the majority  
32 of persons having ownership in properties addressed on the street  
33 to be renamed. Notice of proposed name changes shall be mailed to

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all property owners whose addresses would be changed at least twenty days prior to council action. A change of street names shall be accomplished by the adoption of an ordinance directing the change.

B. The council shall consider technical input from the division, locational and development characteristics relative to the street, and the impact of the change, on existing business and residences, as well as on emergency vehicle responsiveness, in determining whether the change should be made. Only entire street lengths or distinct major portions of streets shall be separately renamed by the county. For purposes of this ordinance, "distinct major portions" shall mean a separate portion of a street identifiable by either a directional shift of at least forty-five degrees or an interrupted interval of at least one quarter mile.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 16th day of May, 1988.

PASSED this 5th day of December, 1988.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Gary Grant  
Chair

ATTEST:

Dorothy M. Owens  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 15th day of December, 1988.

Jim Hill  
King County Executive