

July 12, 1994

Introduced By:

Derdowski, Fimia
Miller, Phillips.

agcomord/de/so

Proposed No.: 94-377

ORDINANCE NO. **11417**

AN ORDINANCE establishing the King County agriculture commission, and repealing Ordinance 3074, Sections 2 through 4, as amended and K.C.C 2.36.050.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 3074, Sections 2 through 4, and K.C.C. 2.36.050 are repealed.

SECTION 2. Definitions. The following terms as used in this chapter have the respective meanings herein set forth.

A. "Agricultural commodity" means any animal or any distinctive type of agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, vegetable, and/or animal product, including but not limited to, products qualifying as organic food products under chapter 15.86 RCW, as amended, and bees, honey and Christmas trees but not including timber or timber products.

B. "Producer" means any person engaged in the business of producing or causing to be produced for market in commercial quantities any agricultural commodity.

SECTION 3. Findings.

A. The council finds that less than 43,000 acres, or 3 percent of the land base in King County, remain in agriculture. In 1992, farmers in King County generated \$84,000,000 in agricultural sales and provided fresh local foods.

B. However, since 1978, commercial agricultural gross sales have declined by 30 percent.

C. In 1979, King County voters expressed their strong public commitment to preserve farmlands by approving a measure to buy farmland development rights. This program preserved 12,600 acres of farmland by purchasing the

1 development rights. During the 1980's, King County
2 established Agricultural Production Districts with large lot
3 zoning requirements and specified agriculture as the
4 preferred use in these areas.

5 D. Today, however, the county needs to take steps to
6 maintain and further enhance commercial agriculture,
7 including steps to zone and limit development to uses that
8 are necessary to support commercial agriculture; prevent or
9 minimize land use conflicts between farming operations and
10 adjacent land uses; ensure necessary infrastructure (markets,
11 available water, affordable housing, farm supply stores,
12 technical services, tax incentives) to support agriculture;
13 and encourage farming practices that balance the needs of the
14 agricultural industry with soil conservation and the
15 protection of water quality, fisheries and wildlife.

16 E. In addition to the above steps, farmers need to take
17 an active role in land use decisions and in the development
18 and evaluation of policies, regulations and incentives that
19 may significantly affect commercial agriculture. Farmers
20 need the opportunity to communicate and work with their
21 neighbors, King County government and others to address the
22 complex and difficult issues associated with maintaining
23 working farms near urban and suburban areas.

24 SECTION 4. Establishment. There is hereby created a
25 King County agriculture commission hereinafter referred to as
26 the commission.

27 SECTION 5. Membership, Terms and Ex Officio Members.

28 A. The commission shall consist of fifteen members; the
29 members shall serve terms of three years as specified in
30 K.C.C. 2.28.

31 B. The fifteen voting members of the commission shall
32 serve without compensation and represent the diversity of the
33 agricultural economy, various agricultural operations, and

1 the regions of King County. Membership should be
2 representative of producers of agricultural commodities and
3 persons with demonstrated knowledge, experience and interest
4 in agricultural real estate, food and feed processing,
5 wholesale and retail marketing, produce buying, direct
6 marketing, supply, and finance. Provided, however, that at
7 least eight of the voting commission members shall be
8 producers as defined in Section 2 of this ordinance.

9 C. The director of the department of parks, planning
10 and resources or designee, the director of the department of
11 development and environmental services or designee, the
12 director of the department of human services or designee, the
13 director of the department of public health or designee, the
14 director of the department of public works or designee, the
15 director of the department construction and facilities
16 management or designee, and the King conservation district
17 may serve as additional members in an ex officio capacity.

18 SECTION 6. Duties. The Commission shall advise the
19 council and executive on agricultural polices and programs,
20 including, but not limited to:

21 A. Existing and proposed legislation and regulations
22 affecting commercial agriculture;

23 B. Land use issues as they impact agriculture; and,

24 C. Ways to maintain, enhance and promote agriculture
25 and agricultural products in the region.

26 SECTION 7. Staffing and Rules of Procedures. In
27 recognition of the duties described in section 6, the
28 directors of the departments of parks, planning and
29 resources, development and environmental services and human
30 services shall be responsible for the staffing and operation
31 of the commission. The commission shall elect officers and
32 shall adopt such administrative procedures as are required to
33 accomplish the purposes of this ordinance.

1 SECTION 8. For all matters not expressly addressed in
2 this ordinance, Ordinance 11319 shall govern.

3 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 20th day of
4 June, 1994.

5 PASSED this 18th day of July, 1994.

6 Passed by a vote of 13-0.

7 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

8 Kent Pullen
9 Chair

10 ATTEST:

11 Gerald A. Peterson
12 Clerk of the Council

13 APPROVED this 27th day of July, 1994.

14 Doug Locke
15 King County Executive

16 Attachments: