

August 31, 1995

Introduced By:

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Proposed No.:

95-383

ORDINANCE NO. **11948**

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held therein on November 7, 1995 of a proposition authorizing an increase in the regular property tax levy in excess of the 106% levy limitation for five consecutive years beginning in 1995, with collection beginning in 1996, at an additional levy rate of not more than \$.0665 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, as amended, for the purpose of paying for the required upgrade of the automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) and the operation of the AFIS Program.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL:

SECTION 1. The council makes the following findings:

A. On November 4, 1986, the voters of King County approved an additional property tax levy of \$.025 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for five years for the purchase and implementation of an automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS). The primary goal for establishment of AFIS was to identify perpetrators of crimes by matching their crime scene fingerprints to known prints stored in the AFIS database. By the end of 1990, over 1,200 crime scene prints were matched to potential suspect fingerprints in the AFIS database. Since without the AFIS Program very few of these identifications would have been possible, AFIS significantly contributed to the ability of police departments in King County to identify and convict criminals.

B. On November 6, 1990, the voters of King County terminated the 1986 AFIS levy and authorized an additional property tax levy of \$.020 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for five years to address two critical limitations in AFIS operations. With the growth of the inmate population, only 60% of the inmates booked into the King County jail were fingerprinted given the existing number of staff. Without these fingerprints, there was a greater likelihood that inmates with outstanding warrants would be released from jail. The second limitation was related to a shortage of staff to process crime scene fingerprints and to train police on lifting crime scene fingerprints resulting in lower than anticipated submissions of fingerprints. With the resources provided in the 1990 levy, the AFIS Program currently

1 fingerprints on average 97% of all inmates booked into the county jail and processes these  
2 prints on average in 4.9 hours. In addition, the AFIS Program has also provided 524 hours of  
3 training for suburban police agencies, improved processing time for crime scene fingerprints,  
4 and identified 3,400 crime scene fingerprints.

5 C. On December 31, 1995, the current AFIS levy will expire thereby eliminating  
6 funding critical to the continued operation of the AFIS Program. Reauthorization of the AFIS  
7 levy is, therefore, necessary to continue to provide this valuable crime fighting tool.  
8 Continuation of the current funding level, however, would be insufficient to support the  
9 current operating costs of the AFIS Program, which even now requires significant  
10 contributions from the general funds of King County and the City of Seattle. Moreover,  
11 funding does not exist to assist fingerprinting operations in suburban city jails. Finally,  
12 continuation of the current levy rate would not provide any funding to meet new demands for  
13 AFIS services and correct existing gaps in AFIS services which significantly limit its potential  
14 value as a criminal fighting tool for all law enforcement agencies in King County

15 D. One such gap in AFIS services is that many juvenile offenders held at the youth  
16 detention center are not currently fingerprinted. Juvenile offender fingerprints are a crucial  
17 source of fingerprints for identifying crime scene suspects.

18 E. A similar gap in capturing fingerprints exists for adults who have been convicted  
19 of driving under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substance. Currently, those  
20 persons who report directly to the North Rehabilitation Facility to serve their sentence are not  
21 fingerprinted.

22 F. Another gap in AFIS services is that there are significant barriers to police agencies  
23 utilizing AFIS services for identifying potential suspects from crime scene fingerprints. This  
24 serious problem results in part from the fact that police officers are discouraged from taking  
25 and sending in crime scene prints because of the current lengthy processing time.

26 Furthermore, many police officers have not been fully trained in the availability of these AFIS  
27 services and are not proficient in the techniques for lifting quality crime scene fingerprints.

28 G. With the activation of the Regional Justice Center in 1997, the AFIS Program will  
29 need to add staff to take fingerprints of those persons booked into this new facility.  
30 Continuation of the current level of funding from the AFIS levy would be insufficient to  
31 support this operation.

1 H. Purchased in 1987, the current AFIS computer system was one of the most  
2 advanced systems available. Within the next five years, this system will not meet emerging  
3 national standards which will allow more efficient exchange of fingerprint information and  
4 access to fingerprint information stored on state and federal databases. Furthermore, the  
5 vendor has notified the King County AFIS Program that by the year 2000 it will not support or  
6 maintain the current system.

7 I. The proposed levy rate is set at a level to fund the AFIS Program in a manner that  
8 best supports the crime fighting efforts of all police agencies in King County. With this level  
9 of funding, the AFIS Program will be able to sufficiently fund its current operations and  
10 provide improvements including taking fingerprints of all persons booked at the South King  
11 County Regional Justice Center, ensuring that nearly all juveniles detained at the youth  
12 detention center are fingerprinted, ensuring that all persons convicted of driving under the  
13 influence of alcohol or other controlled substance are fingerprinted, upgrading outdated  
14 computer equipment with new technology which will support more efficient operations,  
15 reducing the time required to identify potential suspects from crime scene fingerprints, and  
16 training police officers across the county in the techniques for taking quality crime scene  
17 fingerprints.

18 SECTION 2. Definitions. As used in this ordinance, the words hereinafter defined  
19 shall have the meaning set forth in this section.

20 A. "County" means the Metropolitan County of King.

21 B. "AFIS" means the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, which is the  
22 computer system, including the database of fingerprints, and related equipment employed  
23 by trained staff for capturing, storing, and comparing fingerprints.

24 C. "AFIS Program" means the acquisition, implementation, maintenance, and  
25 operation of AFIS and also means the county-wide effort of trained law enforcement and  
26 jail personnel who, through fingerprint identification services, identify detained persons,  
27 identify from crime scene fingerprints suspects of crimes, assist in the conviction of  
28 criminals through identifying their crime scene fingerprints, support accurate and complete  
29 criminal history records, and otherwise enhance public safety as permitted by law.

1 D. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes in excess of the 106%  
2 limitation on levies, for the specific purpose and term provided herein and authorized by  
3 the electorate pursuant to state law.

4 E. "Levy Proceeds" means the principal amount of funds raised by the Levy, any  
5 interest earnings thereon and the proceeds of any interim financing following authorization  
6 of the levy.

7 SECTION 3. Levy Submittal to Voters. To provide necessary funds for the AFIS  
8 Program, the Metropolitan King County Council shall submit to the qualified electors of the  
9 county a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the one hundred six percent  
10 (106%) levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property  
11 taxes levied in five consecutive years commencing in 1995 with collection beginning in 1996  
12 by increasing the regular property tax levy rate during such five year period by an amount not  
13 to exceed \$.0665 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed value. Pursuant to RCW  
14 84.55.050, as amended, this levy shall be a regular property tax levy, which is subject to the  
15 statutory tax rate limit of RCW 84.52.043, as amended, and to the limitations imposed  
16 pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, as amended.

17 SECTION 4. Deposit of Levy Proceeds. All Levy Proceeds collected as authorized  
18 herein shall be deposited into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System Fund.

19 SECTION 5. Financing. After voter approval and pending the collection of the Levy  
20 authorized herein, the county may provide by ordinance for the issuance of limited general  
21 obligation bonds or other securities in order to finance the AFIS Program or any portion  
22 thereof as permitted by law.

23 SECTION 6. Eligible Expenditures. If approved by the qualified electors of King  
24 County, all proceeds of the Levy authorized herein shall be used to pay the costs of the AFIS  
25 Program. Besides the purchase of all equipment and software necessary to upgrade the  
26 computer system and to otherwise support the AFIS Program together with the necessary  
27 software and hardware operations and maintenance expenses, eligible expenditures shall  
28 include the salaries, benefits, office supplies and equipment, space rental, contracted goods  
29 and services, administration, and other costs incidental to the operation of the AFIS Program.

30 Eligible expenditures shall also include payment of any debt issuance costs and debt  
31 service to retire any debt incurred for the AFIS Program, as well as the funding, refunding,

1 financing or refinancing of debt or the reimbursement of extraordinary expenditures incurred  
2 by the county after the effective date of this ordinance with regard to the AFIS Program.

3 SECTION 7. Levy; Election and Ballot Title. It is hereby found that an urgent need  
4 exists to fund the AFIS Program, and, pursuant to RCW 29.13.010, it is hereby declared that  
5 an emergency exists requiring the submission to the qualified electors of King County a  
6 proposition authorizing regular property tax levies in excess of the 106 percent levy limitation  
7 for the purposes described in this ordinance at a special election to be held on November 7,  
8 1995.

9 The King County director of records and elections, as ex officio supervisor of  
10 elections, is hereby requested to assume jurisdiction of and to call and conduct a special  
11 election and to submit to the qualified electors of the county the proposition set forth below.

12 The clerk of the county council is hereby authorized and directed, not less than 45 days  
13 prior to November 7, 1995, to certify a proposition to the King County director of records and  
14 elections in substantially the following form:

15 KING COUNTY

16 PROPOSITION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
17

18 AFIS CRIMINAL FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION LEVY  
19

20  
21 For the purpose of upgrading the automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) and  
22 operating the AFIS Program which assists law enforcement agencies in King County to  
23 rapidly identify and convict criminals, shall King County be authorized to increase its  
24 regular property tax levy by not more than \$.0665 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for a  
25 period of five consecutive years with collection beginning in 1996, as provided in King  
26 County Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
27

28 (This shall not be construed to constitute an excess levy and shall be  
29 subject to other applicable statutory limits.)  
30

31 LEVY, YES .....[ ]

32 LEVY, NO .....[ ]  
33

34  
35 SECTION 8. Ratification. Certification of such proposition by the clerk of the county  
36 council to the King County director of records and elections in accordance with law prior to  
37 the date of such election on November 7, 1995, and any other act consistent with the authority  
38 and prior to the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

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Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 30<sup>th</sup> day of

May, 1995

PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1995.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kent Pullen  
Chair

ATTEST:

Gerald A. Peterson  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1995

Gary Locke  
King County Executive

Attachments: