

November 8, 1995

Introduced By: Ron Sims,  
Jane Hague

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ORDINANCE NO. **12022**

AN ORDINANCE relating to Cable Television, establishing a system of public, education, and government access cable television channels in King County government, establishing a mission statement and goals for operation of a government access channel, and establishing an inter-branch advisory committee for the operation of the government channel.

PREAMBLE:

It is the intent of the Metropolitan King County Council that a comprehensive public, education, and government access (PEG) system be established to serve the citizens of King County. The purpose of this access system is to provide a diverse range of public viewpoints access to cable television, to increase educational and training opportunities for all citizens, and to provide increased access to county government for all citizens.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. The executive shall establish a public access channel for the citizens of King County, to be operated by county government or an entity outside of county government provided that;

A. The public access channel shall not begin operation until a new public access production facility for this channel is available,

B. The public access channel shall not begin operation until rules and criteria governing the programming on the public access channel are adopted by the King County

1 executive and the council has been notified of those rules

2 and criteria,

3 C. No obscene programming shall be allowed on the

4 public access channel. For the purposes of this ordinance,

5 obscene shall mean an activity that, taken as a whole lacks

6 serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value,

7 and,

8 1. Taken as a whole by an average person applying

9 contemporary community standards, appeals to a prurient

10 interest in sex; or,

11 2. Taken as a whole by an average person applying

12 contemporary community standards, depicts patently offensive

13 representation of:

14 a. ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted,

15 actual or simulated; or

16 b. masturbation, fellatio, cunnilingus, bestiality,

17 excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals or

18 genital area; or

19 c. violent or destructive sexual acts, including

20 but not limited to human or animal mutilation, dismemberment,

21 rape or torture.

SECTION 2. The executive shall establish two

educational access channels and shall contract with

appropriate educational program providers for operation of

the channels.

SECTION 3. A government access channel is hereby

established and will be operated by the Metropolitan King

County Council with assistance from the Government Access

Channel Oversight Committee. The council establishes the

following mission statement and policy principles by which

the channel will be operated:

"The King County government access cable television

system belongs to the citizens of King County and exists

to serve citizens directly. In its development and

operation, the government access cable system will be

guided by the following principles:

A. The system shall be used to increase citizen

dialogue about the development of county policies,

B. The system shall be used to make government decision

making more accessible to citizens,

C. The system shall be used to provide information of

direct value to citizens,

D. The system shall be used to foster debate of ideas

and diversity of viewpoints.

E. The system shall make use of creative solutions and

a multiplicity of current and emerging technologies to comply

with these principles.

F. The system shall be as independent as possible in

its operation and funding to insulate it from influences

which may stifle the public information goals reflected in

this statement.

consistent with Motion 8972, programming on the government  
 access channel shall also inform the public about the  
 deliberations of the Metropolitan King County Council and the  
 Regional Policy committees that advise the council as well as  
 programming that highlights important county services  
 including but not limited to: public transit, vanpool and  
 rideshare services, commuter trip reduction services, water  
 quality, jury duty, court and legal services, public safety,  
 public health, property taxes and tax assessments, voter  
 registration, disability services, licensing, permits,  
 citizen complaints, senior citizen programs, family programs,  
 animal control, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health  
 services, and adult and youth detention. Programming  
 relevant to county policies and issues produced by entities  
 outside county government may also be aired.

SECTION 4. There is hereby created the government  
 Access Channel Oversight Committee to assist in operation of  
 the King County government access channel. The government  
 Access Channel Oversight Committee shall consist of the  
 following members:

A. Two Councilmembers, one from each party,  
 B. The County Executive or designee,  
 C. The Director of Information and Administrative  
 Services,  
 D. Three citizens with experience in the management and  
 operation of government access channels for cable television.  
 They shall be appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the  
 council for terms not to exceed four years. The three citizen  
 members of the Oversight Committee shall be compensated at  
 \$50 per diem when attending to Oversight Committee business.

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The Government Access Channel Oversight Committee shall develop and propose policies and procedures to be adopted by the council by ordinance to govern the operation of the government access channel. The Committee may recommend to the council whether to contract with an entity outside county government to operate the government access channel. The government access channel shall carry at least four (4) hours of programming from TVM, the private non-profit provider of public policy programming in Washington State, until such time as another channel is available.

INTRODUCED AND READ FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS 25th

day of September, 1995.

PASSED BY A VOTE OF 12 TO 0 THIS 13th DAY OF

November, 1995.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kent Pallen  
Chair

ATTEST:

Lyndell C. Olsen  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF November, 1995.

[Signature]  
King County Executive

Attachments:

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