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August 25, 1997

Introduced By:

BH/423W2 clerk/LJHS(4,7)

Proposed No.:

97-392

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ORDINANCE NO. **12850**

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the electorate of King County, at a special election on November 4, 1997, a proposition imposing the levy of a general tax each year for six years beginning in 1998 at a rate of \$.29 or less for \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the provision of emergency medical services.

PREAMBLE:

Emergency medical services are among the most important services provided to County residents. These services include basic and advanced life support, training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, an effective communications system, emergency medical technician training, defibrillation training, injury prevention, and related services. In combination, these programs have made the emergency medical services network in King County an invaluable life-saving effort and an important part of the quality of life standards afforded citizens of this county.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the nation and in King County. The delivery of paramedic services in King County has tripled the survival rate of victims of cardiac arrest; the initiation of cardiopulmonary resuscitation by bystanders or emergency medical technicians has doubled hospital discharge rates.

King County should continue to exercise leadership and assume responsibility for assuring the orderly and comprehensive development and provision of emergency medical services throughout the county.

The concern for assuring a county-wide emergency medical services program is shared by King County cities and fire protection districts who participate in emergency medical services programs.

Emergency medical services provided to county residents should be high quality and should meet uniform service delivery standards.

1 The demand for emergency medical services has grown over the years,
2 however, such demand has not been accompanied by a stable source of
3 revenues.

4 Emergency medical services are essential and should be afforded a stable
5 and discrete funding base.

6 RCW 84.52.069, as amended, recognizes the needs and concerns
7 described above and provides a funding source for the provision of such
8 emergency medical services.

9 The provision of emergency medical services on a county-wide basis is a
10 public purpose of King County. In order to assure such a provision of
11 services, it is both necessary and appropriate that an additional regular
12 property tax of \$.29 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation be levied as
13 provided for in this ordinance.

14 Reimbursement and transfer to the City of Seattle of all tax revenues
15 collected pursuant to the levy provided for in this ordinance against
16 taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City of Seattle
17 will not affect the County's ability to provide emergency medical services
18 throughout King County.

19 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

20 SECTION 1. Approval of cities over 50,000 population. Pursuant to RCW 84.52.069,
21 as amended, approval to impose this additional regular property tax will be obtained from
22 legislative bodies of all cities in the county over 50,000 population before it is submitted to the
23 electorate of King County on the general election ballot of November 4, 1997.

24 SECTION 2. City of Seattle reimbursement. It is recognized that the City of Seattle
25 operates and funds an emergency medical services program that is separate from the county
26 program. During the period of this six-year levy, as set forth herein and as authorized by the
27 qualified electors of King County, all tax revenues collected pursuant to such six-year levy
28 from taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City of Seattle shall be
29 reimbursed and transferred to the city.

30 SECTION 3. Type of levy. Pursuant to the authorization in RCW 84.52.069, as
31 amended, this levy is a regular property tax levy in addition to the statutory tax rate limit of

1 RCW 84.52.043 and is not subject to the 106% limitation of RCW 85.55.010 for the first levy
2 imposed, but is subject thereto for the remaining five levies.

3 SECTION 4. Levy rate. The rate at which this levy shall be submitted to the voters
4 shall be the rate of \$.29 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation each year for six consecutive
5 years.

6 SECTION 5. Deposit of funds. The share of this collection designated for the City of
7 Seattle under Section 3 of this ordinance shall be deposited into the Seattle Emergency
8 Medical Services Tax Fund and dispersed from this fund. All other funds collected under this
9 levy shall be deposited into the county emergency medical services fund.

10 SECTION 6. Ratification by voters. This six-year levy must be approved by a
11 majority of at least three-fifths of the electors of King County voting on the proposition, at
12 which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-
13 fifths of a number equal to forty percentum of the total votes cast in King County at the last
14 preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition does not
15 exceed forty percentum of the total or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors of
16 King voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition
17 exceeds forty percentum of the total votes cast in King County in the last preceding general
18 election.

19 SECTION 7. Call for special election. Pursuant to RCW 29.13.010, it is hereby
20 deemed that an emergency exists requiring the submission to the qualified electors of the
21 county at a special election to be held on November 4, 1997, in conjunction with the statewide
22 general election to be held on the same date, of a proposition authorizing the previously
23 described six-year levy for emergency medical services. The manager of the division of
24 records and elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the

1 state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the
2 said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council is
3 hereby authorized and directed to certify that proposition to the manager of the King County
4 division of records and elections in substantially the following form:

5 King County, Washington

6 Proposition _____: Regular Property Tax

7 Levy for Emergency Medical Services

8 Shall King County be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of \$0.29 or
9 less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for each of six consecutive years beginning
10 in 1997, to be collected beginning in 1998, for the provision of emergency medical
11 services, all as provided in King County Ordinance _____.”

12 Proposition, yes.....

13 Proposition, no.....

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SECTION 8. Severability. Should any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, that determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 23rd day of June, 19 97

PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 on this 8th day of September, 19 97

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jane Hague
Chair

ATTEST:

Zelma
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 8th day of September, 19 97

Donald Amir
King County Executive

Attachments: