



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 27, 2001

14067

Ordinance 14067

Proposed No. 2001-0190.2

Sponsors McKenna and Nickels

1 AN ORDINANCE waiving certain code requirements
2 relating to the King County Courthouse seismic retrofit,
3 construction management services for the regional
4 communications and emergency coordination center
5 projects, and the relocation of the automated fingerprint
6 identification system office; and declaring an emergency.

7

8 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

9 SECTION 1. Findings:

10 A. The King County Courthouse is a reinforced concrete and masonry building
11 built in 1914 to 1916 with additional floors added in 1929 to 1931. The building has
12 never been upgraded to higher seismic design standards that would be applicable to new
13 construction.

14 B. The King County Courthouse is the central administrative location for all three
15 branches of county government and many vital county offices and agencies, including the
16 King County superior court, the King County district court, the metropolitan King
17 County council, the King County executive, the office of the prosecuting attorney, the

18 office of the King County sheriff and the King County emergency communications
19 center. The courthouse is visited by many thousands of members of the public each year
20 as jurors, litigants or persons seeking information or assistance from county agencies.

21 C. While the King County Courthouse performed well in the recent earthquake
22 with only cosmetic damage to interior walls and furnishing, and is structurally sound,
23 current information from the University of Washington and the United States Geological
24 Services indicates that the ground motion in downtown Seattle, including the courthouse
25 site, which would result from earthquakes originating on the Seattle fault may be more
26 severe. In addition, concern by elected officials, employees, and members of the public
27 related to the risk associated with occupancy of the courthouse in the event of a more
28 severe earthquake poses a continuing risk of decreased productivity in the performance of
29 county functions.

30 D. The King County Courthouse seismic retrofit project, including those
31 activities needed to relocate affected building operations and personnel, must be
32 expeditiously completed so that the courthouse will meet current earthquake safety
33 standards. The project will face unacceptable schedule delay if renovation and
34 relocation project for the automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) office is not
35 accelerated consistent with an accelerated schedule for courthouse seismic retrofit.

36 E. The possibility of a larger earthquake event in Seattle causing severe damage
37 to the courthouse constitutes an emergency that presents a real and immediate threat to
38 the proper performance of essential governmental and judicial functions. An earthquake
39 will likely result in material loss or damage to property and injury to persons unless
40 expeditious action is taken on the seismic retrofitting of the King County Courthouse,

41 including those activities needed to relocate affected building operations and personnel,
42 and relocation of the automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) office within the
43 courthouse.

44 F. An emergency waiver of competitive bidding and formal solicitation
45 requirements of state and county law is necessary to assure the timely availability of
46 design and construction services and materials necessary to prevent delay in the
47 performance of the King County Courthouse seismic retrofitting, including those
48 activities needed to relocate affected building operations and personnel and relocation of
49 the AFIS office within the courthouse.

50 G. The King County Emergency Communications (911) Center is currently
51 located in the first floor of the King County Courthouse. The center performs mission
52 critical public safety functions on a constant basis and must be operational during a major
53 regional emergency such as an earthquake. The possibility of another major earthquake
54 event in Seattle causing damage to the courthouse that would threaten the safe and
55 continued operation of this center constitutes an emergency. An emergency waiver of
56 competitive bidding and formal solicitation requirements of state and county law is
57 necessary to assure the timely availability of construction management services to
58 prevent delay in the performance of the development of the King County Regional
59 Communications and Emergency Coordination Center (RCECC).

60 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any other process for issuing waivers of
61 contracting requirements in K.C.C. chapter 4.16, the requirements for competitive
62 bidding of construction contracts under chapter 36.32 RCW, and the requirements with
63 respect to the solicitation and selection of contractors, suppliers, and

64 technical/professional consultants under K.C.C. chapters 4.16, 4.18, 12.16 and 12.18 and
65 K.C.C. 4.04.200 through 4.04.260 are hereby waived with reference to any contract
66 relating to the seismic retrofit of the King County Courthouse, including those activities
67 needed to relocate affected building operations and personnel, and the relocation of the
68 AFIS office within the courthouse. These requirements are also waived with respect to
69 contracts for construction management services for development of the RCECC. This
70 waiver expires upon completion of these projects.

71 SECTION 3. For the reasons set forth in section 1 of this ordinance, the county
72 council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency exists and that this ordinance is

73 necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, or safety or for the
74 support of county government and existing public institutions.

Ordinance 14067 was introduced on 3/26/01 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 3/26/01, by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Miller, Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz,
Mr. McKenna, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett,
Ms. Hague, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Irons

No: 0


Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None