



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**December 13, 2006**

**Ordinance 15668**

**Proposed No.** 2006-0598.2

**Sponsors** Gossett

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to council rules and order of  
2 business; amending Ordinance 11683, Section 2, as  
3 amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.015, Ordinance 11683, Section  
4 3, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.025, Ordinance 11683,  
5 Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.045, Ordinance  
6 11683, Section 14, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.135,  
7 Ordinance 11683, Section 15, as amended, and K.C.C.  
8 1.24.145 and Ordinance 11683, Section 22, as amended,  
9 and K.C.C. 1.24.215, and declaring an emergency.

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12 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

13 SECTION 1. Findings:

14 The annual reorganization of the council includes selection of the council chair  
15 and vice-chairs, and designation of council committees, and their chairs, vice-chairs,  
16 memberships and meeting times. These changes are made by adoption of one or more  
17 council motions, collected as the council's organizational compilation. Changes to the

18 names or duties of some committees made in those motions also require certain parallel  
19 changes to the council's rules ordinance. It is not possible to identify and draft those  
20 changes until committee structure changes, if any, have been proposed. The process of  
21 developing such changes has not allowed the drafting and introduction of a proposed  
22 ordinance containing necessary rules changes within the time period that would allow a  
23 non-emergency ordinance to be considered and acted upon in a timely manner. As a  
24 result, to be able to have the council rules accurately reflect any changes to the council's  
25 organizational structure when the council convenes in January 2007, it is necessary to  
26 consider and act upon this ordinance as an emergency ordinance.

27 SECTION 2. Ordinance 11683, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.015 are  
28 each hereby amended as follows:

29 The chair of the council has the following powers and duties:

30 A. The chair shall:

31 1. Call the council to order at the hour appointed for meeting and, if a quorum is  
32 present, shall cause the minutes of the previous meeting to be approved;

33 2. Proceed with the order of business; and

34 3. Adjourn the council upon a motion to adjourn approved by a majority of  
35 members present;

36 B. The chair shall preserve order and decorum and in the interest of efficiency may  
37 impose time and subject matter limits for testimony and comment given by the public and  
38 members of the council;

39 C. The chair shall promote efficient operation of the council, which shall include  
40 setting the agenda and expediting parliamentary debate or, if there is no objection from any

41 other member, expediting the passage of routine motions. The chair's act of adding to,  
42 removing from or taking out of order an item on a distributed and posted agenda may be  
43 appealed to the full body by any two members under Rule 5.C, K.C.C. 1.24.045.C. The  
44 chair shall discourage activities that are dilatory or disruptive. The chair shall endeavor to  
45 facilitate the will of the majority of members present at all times;

46 D. The chair may speak to points of order, inquiry or information in preference to  
47 other members. Upon a ruling of the chair on a point of order, the chair shall allow any  
48 two members to immediately request that the decision be placed before the body. If a  
49 majority of members present agree to the ruling of the chair, the business of the council  
50 must proceed without further debate. If a majority of the members present do not support  
51 the ruling of the chair, the chair shall immediately allow a procedural motion to dispense  
52 with the issue in question, proceeding until a decision of the council is secured and the  
53 business of the council is allowed to proceed;

54 E. The chair shall refer legislation to committees unless there is an objection to a  
55 referral. If there is an objection by a member, the chair's referral will stand unless a  
56 majority of the members present vote to support the objection. If the objection is sustained,  
57 the chair shall refer the legislation to another committee, unless there is an objection to the  
58 referral.

59 F. Any motion that proposes to censure a councilmember for violating the council's  
60 antiharassment policy shall be referred to the employment and administration committee;

61 G. The chair shall introduce all legislation relating to land use appeals, road  
62 vacations, plat applications, current use assessments and other similar land use decisions.  
63 If recommended by action of the employment and administration committee, the chair shall

64 introduce any motion that proposes to censure a councilmember for violating the council's  
65 antiharassment policy, unless the chair is the subject of the motion; and

66 H. The chair shall provide copies to all councilmembers of all official  
67 communications and requests for council action addressed to the chair from the executive,  
68 the sheriff, the assessor, the presiding judge of the district or superior court or the  
69 prosecuting attorney.

70 SECTION 3. Ordinance 11683, Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.025 are  
71 each hereby amended as follows:

72 A. The vice-chair shall exercise the duties, powers and prerogatives of the council  
73 chair in the event of the chair's absence.

74 B. If the chair and the vice-chair are both absent at a meeting of the council, the  
75 operating budget and fiscal management committee chair shall preside as acting chair.

76 C. If recommended by action of the employment and administration committee,  
77 and the chair is the subject of a motion that proposes to censure a councilmember for  
78 violating the council's antiharassment policy the vice-chair shall introduce the motion.

79 SECTION 4. Ordinance 11683, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.045 are  
80 each hereby amended as follows:

81 A. Council business must be disposed of in the following order, or in an order the  
82 chair deems appropriate, subject to appeal as provided in Rule 5.C, K.C.C. 1.24.045.C:

83 1. Roll call;

84 2. Flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance, the leading of which must be offered by a  
85 member of the council and which must rotate among all members of the council;

86 3. Approval of minutes;

- 87           4. Special items;
- 88           5. Reports from members serving on special and outside committees;
- 89           6. Plat tracings;
- 90           7. Hearings and second reading of ordinances from standing committees and  
91 regional committees;
- 92           8. First reading of and action on emergency ordinances without referral to  
93 committee;
- 94           9. Motions, from standing committees and regional committees, for council  
95 action;
- 96           10. First reading of and action on motions without referral to committee;
- 97           11. Consent agenda on reappointments to boards and commissions;
- 98           12. Consent agenda on reports and recommended actions from employment and  
99 administration committee;
- 100           13. Other reports and recommended actions from the employment and  
101 administration committee;
- 102           14. Consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations;
- 103           15. First reading and referral of ordinances;
- 104           16. First reading and referral of motions;
- 105           17. Extra items;
- 106           18. Messages from the county executive and other county officials, the judiciary,  
107 the regional committees and other agencies;
- 108           19. Other business; and
- 109           20. Adjournment.

110 B. Legislation or other items for placement on the council meeting agenda must be  
111 submitted to the clerk of the council by 10:00 a.m. Thursday of the week before the next  
112 scheduled meeting, except that:

113 1. If directed by the chair, the clerk may place an item on the council agenda with  
114 a note that the item is contingent on being voted out of committee before the council  
115 meeting;

116 2. Legislation or other items for referral to committee may be added at  
117 committee-of-the-whole or regularly scheduled council meetings at the discretion of the  
118 chair of the council; and

119 3. Legislation or other items needing action by the full council may be added at  
120 the discretion of the chair of the council at committee-of-the whole or regularly scheduled  
121 council meetings. The chair shall apply the following criteria for the additions:

122 a. the legislation is particularly time-sensitive and delay in action either:

123 (1) might impair the effectiveness of the county's responses to emergencies  
124 such as natural or human-made disasters, or other circumstances seriously affecting the  
125 public health, safety or welfare or the support of county government and its existing public  
126 institutions; or

127 (2) might impair timely performance under deadlines of a statute, ordinance,  
128 contract, interlocal agreement, real property instrument or other provision requiring  
129 immediate action;

130 b. legislation should be delivered to the chair and the clerk before the beginning  
131 of the committee-of-the-whole meeting. An original and twenty copies should be provided  
132 to the clerk, together with an introduction slip from the sponsor; and

133 c. the sponsor should provide a brief written description to the chair of the reason  
134 for the need to expedite the legislation without regular committee review.

135 C. The chair shall notify the members present of proposed changes to the agenda.  
136 If two members object to a change, a majority of the members present shall decide whether  
137 to change the agenda.

138 SECTION 5. Ordinance 11683, Section 14, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.135 are  
139 each hereby amended as follows:

140 A. Consent agendas may be established by the chair of the council or a committee.  
141 Proposed legislation may be placed on a consent agenda at a council meeting upon  
142 recommendation by the committee that considered the legislation. If a member objects to  
143 the placement of proposed legislation on a consent agenda, the proposed legislation must  
144 be removed from the consent agenda. Proposed legislation on the consent agenda at a  
145 council meeting is not subject to amendment except as recommended in the committee  
146 report. All items on a consent agenda, whether committee recommendations or final  
147 council action, may be adopted in one motion by oral roll call vote.

148 B. Employment and administration committee recommendations shall be contained in  
149 a written recommendation report that shall be sent to the full council in the manner set forth  
150 in the council's organizational motion. The council shall consider the recommendation  
151 reports from the committee on an employment and administration committee consent  
152 agenda. However, in the event the employment and administration committee forwards  
153 two recommendations to the council on the same matter, the two recommendations shall be  
154 considered separately from the consent agenda. Upon the request of any member present  
155 before the full council, any specific recommendation from the employment and

156 administration committee shall be removed from the consent agenda and considered  
157 separately by the council after adoption of the employment and administration committee  
158 consent agenda.

159 C. A consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations may be established by  
160 the chair of the council. A hearing examiner recommendation may be placed on the agenda  
161 on hearing examiner recommendations if a hearing was previously held on the measure and  
162 if a council member does not object to the placement. If a member objects to the  
163 placement of a hearing examiner recommendation on the consent agenda on hearing  
164 examiner recommendations, the recommendation must be removed from the consent  
165 agenda on hearing examiner recommendations. All items on the consent agenda on hearing  
166 examiner recommendations may be adopted in one motion by oral roll call vote.

167 D. A consent agenda on motions confirming reappointments to boards and  
168 commissions may be established by the chair of the council. If a member objects to the  
169 placement of a confirmation motion on the consent agenda, the motion must be removed  
170 from the consent agenda and considered separately before adoption of the confirmation  
171 consent agenda. Confirmation motions referred to the consent agenda may be adopted in  
172 one motion by oral roll call vote.

173 SECTION 6. Ordinance 11683, Section 15, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.145 are  
174 each hereby amended as follows:

175 A. The requirements for a quorum of a standing committee are prescribed in Rule  
176 6A, K.C.C. 1.24.055.A. The requirements for a quorum of a regional committee are  
177 prescribed in Rule 7, K.C.C. 1.24.065.



178 B. ((Seven)) Five members constitute a quorum of the county council. If there is a  
179 lack of a quorum, the chair shall request the clerk of the council to call members so as to  
180 constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise required by the King County Charter, a vote of the  
181 majority of those present is necessary for the conduct of council business.

182 C. There may not be voting by proxy on a question before the council. A member  
183 who is in the council chambers when the question is put shall vote unless excused by the  
184 council for special reasons. A motion to excuse a member must be made before the call for  
185 "ayes" and "nos" is commenced.

186 D. A vote before the council must be recorded as to the "ayes" and "nos." Upon  
187 the final passage of legislation before the council, the vote must be taken by oral roll call.  
188 On any other matter, the vote must be taken by oral roll call if requested by at least three  
189 members. When once begun, the roll call may not be interrupted. The order of names on  
190 the roll call must be alphabetical by last name except for the chair, who votes last when the  
191 "ayes" and "nos" are called.

192 SECTION 7. Ordinance 11683, Section 22, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.215 are  
193 each hereby amended as follows:

194 A. As provided in the King County Charter, the executive may not veto a motion,  
195 an emergency ordinance except for an appropriation ordinance, an ordinance proposing an  
196 amendment to the charter or an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county  
197 with county employees covered by the personnel system.

198 B. If the executive vetoes an ordinance or an object of expense of an appropriation  
199 ordinance, a copy of the executive's veto message, together with the proposed ordinance  
200 vetoed or partially vetoed, must be distributed to each member. Within thirty days after an

201 ordinance is vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the council may override  
202 the veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of ((~~nine~~)) six affirmative votes. Upon a  
203 member's request, the chair of the council shall place the question of override of the veto  
204 upon the agenda for the next council meeting after receipt of the request. A special council  
205 meeting may be called for the purpose of considering the override of the veto. Notice of  
206 the meeting must be given as required by state law.

207           SECTION 8. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency

208 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,  
209 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public institutions.

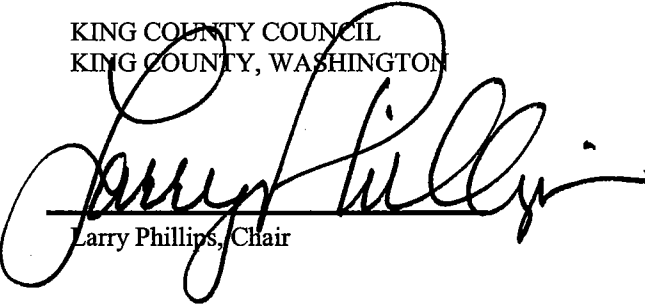
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Ordinance 15668 was introduced on 12/11/2006 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/11/2006, by the following vote:

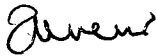
Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Constantine and Ms. Patterson  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments      None