



**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**May 29, 2012**

**Ordinance 17335**

**Proposed No. 2012-0125.1**

**Sponsors Gossett**

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the council rules; and  
2 amending Ordinance 11683, Section 5, as amended, and  
3 K.C.C. 1.24.045, and Ordinance 11683, Section 10, as  
4 amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.095, and declaring an  
5 emergency.

6 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

7 SECTION 1. Findings.

- 8 A. King County Charter Section 220.40 requires the council to adopt by  
9 ordinance rules of procedure governing the time, place and conduct of its meetings.
- 10 B. Consistent with the county charter, the council adopted by ordinance rules of  
11 procedure, which are codified in K.C.C. chapter 1.24.
- 12 C. The rules ordinance has been amended from time to time to reflect desired  
13 changes in the council's rules of procedure and organization.
- 14 D. The council wishes to amend the rules ordinance to as soon as possible require  
15 the council agenda to include the opportunity for general public comment at certain of its  
16 meetings. It is necessary to enact this as an emergency ordinance in order to avoid delay  
17 in making this amendment and to make it immediately legally effective.

18 SECTION 2. Ordinance 11683, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.045 are  
19 each hereby amended to read as follows:

20 **Rule 5: Agenda.**

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

- 23 1. Roll call;
- 24 2. Flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance, the leading of which must be offered by  
25 a member of the council and which must rotate among all members of the council;
- 26 3. Approval of minutes;
- 27 4. Additions to the council agenda;
- 28 5. Special items;
- 29 6. Public comment on the fourth Monday of each month, or the fourth Tuesday  
30 if the fourth Monday is a state or county holiday;
- 31 7. Plat tracings;
- 32 ~~((7-))~~ 8. Hearing and second reading of ordinances from standing committees  
33 and regional committees;
- 34 ~~((8-))~~ 9. First reading of and action on emergency ordinances without referral to  
35 committee;
- 36 ~~((9-))~~ 10. Consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations;
- 37 ~~((10-))~~ 11. Motions, from standing committees and regional committees, for  
38 council action;
- 39 ~~((11-))~~ 12. First reading of and action on motions without referral to committee;
- 40 ~~((12-))~~ 13. Consent agenda on reappointments to boards and commissions;
- 41 ~~((13-))~~ 14. Consent agenda on reports and recommended actions from the  
42 employment and administration committee;

43            ~~((14-))~~ 15. Other reports and recommended actions from the employment and  
44 administration committee;

45            ~~((15-))~~ 16. First reading and referral of ordinances;

46            ~~((16-))~~ 17. First reading and referral of motions;

47            ~~((17-))~~ 18. Reports from members serving on special and outside committees;

48            ~~((18-))~~ 19. Extra items;

49            ~~((19-))~~ 20. Messages from the county executive and other county officials, the  
50 judiciary, the regional committees and other agencies;

51            ~~((20-))~~ 21. Other business; and

52            ~~((21-))~~ 22. Adjournment.

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

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

59            2. Legislation or other items needing action by the full council may be added at  
60 the discretion of the chair of the council at a regularly scheduled council meeting. The  
61 chair shall apply the following criteria for the additions:

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

63            (1) might impair the effectiveness of the county's responses to emergencies  
64 such as natural or human-made disasters, or other circumstances seriously affecting the

65 public health, safety or welfare or the support of county government and its existing  
66 public institutions; or

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

70 b. legislation should be delivered to the clerk before the beginning of the  
71 council meeting. The original should be provided to the clerk, together with an  
72 introduction slip from the sponsor; and

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

75 D. The chair shall notify the members present of proposed changes to the agenda.  
76 If two members object to a change, a majority of the members present shall decide  
77 whether to change the agenda.

78 SECTION 3. Ordinance 11683, Section 10, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.095 are  
79 each hereby amended to read as follows:

80 **Rule 10: Public hearing and second reading.**

81 A. At least seven days must elapse after introduction of a proposed ordinance,  
82 other than an emergency ordinance, before the council may conduct the required public  
83 hearing on the proposed ordinance. The council must conduct a public hearing before  
84 adopting an ordinance. Public testimony at the hearing must be germane to the proposed  
85 ordinance and must be made in such a manner as to comply with the requirements  
86 imposed by the chair under Rule 2B, K.C.C. 1.24.015.B. The chair shall liberally  
87 construe this rule as it relates to public testimony.

88           B. The council shall allow general public comment on matters relating to county  
89 government at its meeting on the fourth Monday of each month, or the fourth Tuesday if  
90 the fourth Monday is a state or county holiday. General public comment is limited to  
91 fifteen minutes and each person making general public comment may speak for two  
92 minutes. General public comment may not be used for the purpose of assisting a  
93 campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to  
94 any ballot proposition. General public comment may not address any ordinance that is on  
95 that day's council agenda for public hearing. General public comment must be made in  
96 such a manner as to comply with the requirements imposed by the chair under Rule 2B,  
97 K.C.C. 1.24.015.B. The chair shall liberally construe this rule as it relates to general  
98 public comment.

99           SECTION 4. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency

100 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,  
101 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public  
102 institutions.  
103

Ordinance 17335 was introduced on 5/29/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/29/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott  
No: 0  
Excused: 2 - Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague

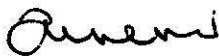
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None