



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 23, 2012

Ordinance 17381

Proposed No. 2012-0210.1

Sponsors McDermott, Lambert, Dunn,
Ferguson, Hague, Patterson and von
Reichbauer

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be
3 held in King County on November 6, 2012, of a proposition
4 to support continuation of the regional automated
5 fingerprint identification system program by renewing and
6 replacing authorization of an expiring property tax levy in
7 excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55
8 RCW, for a consecutive six-year period, at a first year rate
9 of not more than \$0.0592 per one thousand dollars of
10 assessed valuation for collection beginning in 2013, with
11 subsequent maximum levy collections being increased by
12 the greater of one percent or the percentage increase in the
13 consumer price index as long as that amount does not
14 exceed three percent, for the purpose of funding the
15 continued operation of the regional automated fingerprint
16 identification system and related technology and services,
17 which expand crime scene and arrest identification

18 capabilities for all criminal justice agencies in King
19 County.

20 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

21 SECTION 1. Findings:

22 A. To expand and enhance upon the limited identification services provided by
23 individual city agencies or at the state level, in 1986 the voters of King County approved
24 funding for the purchase of a shared regional automated fingerprint identification system
25 ("AFIS") computer which matches unknown fingerprints to known fingerprints. King
26 County's AFIS database holds over seven hundred thousand fingerprint records, over
27 three hundred thousand palmprint records and approximately thirty-six thousand
28 unidentified crime scene fingerprints. The King County AFIS is a regional system with
29 service available to every city and unincorporated area in King County.

30 B. The AFIS computer is used for two primary purposes:

- 31 1. To quickly identify arrested individuals, and prevent the wrongful release of
32 those who use false names to evade arrest warrants or hide criminal records; and
33 2. To search fingerprints and palmprints collected from crime scenes to identify
34 unknown suspects and aid in convictions.

35 C. The county first purchased the shared AFIS computer after the voters of King
36 County approved a property tax levy for that purpose in November 1986. The ballot
37 measure was authorized by Ordinance 7747. The technology at the time did not include
38 palmprint searching. Since 1986, the voters of King County have continued to endorse
39 this service by approving renewal property tax levies ranging from \$0.0200 to \$0.0665

40 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation to support, expand, and enhance AFIS
41 services as needed. The levy history is as follows:

42 1. Five-year renewal levy approved in November 1990. The ballot measure was
43 authorized by Ordinance 9603;

44 2. Five-year renewal levy approved in November 1995. The ballot measure was
45 authorized by Ordinance 11948;

46 3. Five-year renewal levy approved in September 2000. The ballot measure was
47 authorized by Ordinance 13894. Through careful fiscal management, the county
48 accumulated a fund balance, which sustained AFIS program operations through 2006
49 without a concurrent property tax levy; and

50 4. Six-year renewal levy approved in September 2006. The ballot measure was
51 authorized by Ordinance 15537. Again, careful fiscal management accumulated a fund
52 balance, which this time was returned to taxpayers through reduced levy rates in 2011
53 and 2012.

54 D. The 1986 AFIS computer, partially updated in 1999, was completely replaced
55 with a new system in 2011. This new system introduced palmprint searching for the first
56 time in King County, and has improved matching capabilities and increased storage
57 capacity. Since its installation, nineteen identifications have been made on cold cases
58 and from palmprints left at crime scenes.

59 E. On December 31, 2012, the 2006 AFIS levy, which was adopted at a rate of
60 \$0.0568 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation, will expire. This ordinance
61 proposes a renewed AFIS levy at a rate of \$0.0592 per one thousand dollars of assessed

62 valuation starting in 2013. Without renewed revenue, funding for this program will run
63 out in June 2013, ceasing operations.

64 F. Large cities and metropolitan areas around the country have realized great
65 benefit from having their own AFIS technology. King County is one of only two
66 counties in the state of Washington with its own AFIS computer, and it is the only county
67 with a shared regional model that provides services to all local law enforcement agencies.
68 King County owns the only palmprint database in the state. It is larger than the one used
69 by Washington State Patrol, although King County AFIS staff have the ability to search
70 that database as well. The AFIS program has made one hundred eighty palmprint 'hits' or
71 identifications since the 2011 implementation of the new AFIS computer. In 2011, the
72 AFIS program searched more than seventy-four thousand fingerprint records and
73 processed almost nineteen thousand pieces of evidence. The program identified almost
74 four thousand latent crime scene prints, and over seven hundred thirty individuals who
75 had given false names when arrested.

76 G. King County's AFIS program is proven as essential to law enforcement, and is
77 recognized for its exceptional service. The program's regional model has provided
78 excellent and effective crime-solving support to all the criminal justice agencies in King
79 County since its inception in 1988. The current AFIS program provides for many shared
80 services, including:

- 81 1. The purchase, maintenance, and staff operation of the AFIS computer;
- 82 2. The purchase, maintenance, training and support for forty-eight Livescans,
- 83 which are devices installed at thirty-five law enforcement agencies throughout King

84 County for the purpose of collecting better quality prints and transmitting them
85 electronically for a faster and more efficient response;

86 3. The collection of high quality fingerprints in county jail facilities, and
87 fingerprint examiners available twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week, for the
88 quick identification of arrested individuals;

89 4. Examiners who collect prints from crime scenes, process them chemically
90 and photographically for better clarity, search them in AFIS, and make identifications of
91 unknown potential suspects or store the unidentified prints for continual search as new
92 records are added to the system; and

93 5. Training on fingerprint collection and crime scene processing, and customer
94 support for all law enforcement agencies.

95 H. The AFIS program has met all goals set forth in the current levy, well below
96 the budget projections made in 2006. Some of these goals included:

97 1. Procurement, implementation, and support of a new AFIS, replacing the
98 twenty-year-old original system with a more efficient and effective model capable of both
99 fingerprint and palmprint searching and storage;

100 2. Purchase of additional criminal Livescan fingerprint capture stations, and
101 upgrade of image resolution for print clarity, at high volume sites; and

102 3. A pilot for remote hand-held fingerprint capture devices that allow officers to
103 search the regional AFIS from the field, and a study on the benefits and impacts of
104 fingerprint capture stations in the courts.

105 I. With the oversight of the AFIS advisory committee, the AFIS program has
106 prepared a new six-year financial and operational plan. The recommended levy

107 maintains current services, streamlines staffing, and replaces an aging regional
108 laboratory, all at a rate that is less than the voters passed in 2006. It also identifies
109 several areas of reductions and efficiencies. The financial plan includes:

110 1. A reduction of eleven positions and other savings equating to approximately
111 \$6.75 million over six years, with no corresponding reduction in services. This was
112 achieved by identifying efficiencies and refining staffing models;

113 2. Continued support for the remote fingerprinting initiatives started under the
114 2007-2012 levy; and

115 3. Replacement of the county's latent processing lab, which is substantially
116 undersized to handle the volume of work it supports. The new lab will provide more
117 space to allow different chemical processes to be performed separately and
118 simultaneously without concerns of cross-contamination. It will also address safety
119 concerns that are present in the current laboratory, which resides in an outdated building.

120 J. The AFIS program produces publicly available annual reports that provide
121 status updates on program initiatives and accomplishments. The success of the regional
122 AFIS program has been a result of regular collaboration with law enforcement agencies
123 across King County.

124 K. Under state law, a levy lid lift is limited to a maximum term of six years if the
125 levy provides for a specified index to be used to determine the limit factor. The proposed
126 levy is limited to six years.

127 SECTION 2. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this
128 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

129 A. "AFIS" means automated fingerprint identification system.

130 B. "AFIS computer" means the automated fingerprint identification system,
131 which is the computer system that utilizes AFIS as its foundation, and through modular
132 design incorporates other databases of criminal identification records, and related
133 equipment, technology, networks, and interfaces employed by trained staff for capturing,
134 storing, and comparing criminal identification records based on friction ridge analysis, or
135 successor technology.

136 C. "AFIS program" means the acquisition, implementation, maintenance and
137 operation of the regional AFIS computer. It also means the countywide effort of trained
138 personnel who, through fingerprints, palmprints, and other identification methods:
139 identify detained persons; identify suspects of crimes from fingerprints and palmprints
140 left on evidence at crime scenes; assist in the conviction of criminals through identifying
141 this crime scene evidence; train law enforcement on crime scene evidence collection and
142 identification methods; support accurate and complete criminal history records; conduct
143 field research aimed at improving and enhancing program services; and otherwise
144 enhance public safety as consistent with this ordinance and permitted by law.

145 D. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes, for the specific purpose and
146 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
147 law.

148 E. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of funds raised by the levy, any
149 interest earnings on the funds and the proceeds of any interim financing following
150 authorization of the levy.

151 F. "Limit factor" means the greater of one percent or the percentage increase in
152 the consumer price index as long as that amount does not exceed three percent. The

153 consumer price index is defined as the ratio of the most recent June Consumer Price
154 Index to the immediately previous June Consumer Price Index (final published CPI-W
155 Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, as calculated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics,
156 or its successor) expressed as a multiple of one hundred percent to achieve the result of
157 one hundred percent plus inflation.

158 SECTION 3. Levy submittal to voters. To provide necessary funds for the
159 AFIS program, the King County council shall submit to the qualified electors of the
160 county a proposition to renew and replace an expiring levy and authorize a regular
161 property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six
162 consecutive years, commencing in 2012, with collection beginning in 2013, at a rate in
163 this first year not to exceed \$0.0592 per one thousand dollars of assessed value, with
164 subsequent years limited by the limit factor as defined in section 2 of this ordinance.

165 SECTION 4. Deposit of levy proceeds. All levy proceeds collected as
166 authorized in this ordinance shall be deposited into and retained in a designated AFIS
167 fund.

168 SECTION 5. Eligible expenditures. If approved by the qualified electors of the
169 county, all proceeds of the levy authorized in this ordinance shall be used to pay the costs
170 of the regional AFIS program, together with the necessary software and hardware
171 operations and maintenance expenses. Eligible expenditures include the salaries,
172 benefits, training, office and laboratory supplies and equipment, work space, contracted
173 goods and services, related studies and research, administration and other costs incidental
174 to the operation and enhancement of the regional AFIS program. Work space
175 expenditures may include the lease or rental of property, or the purchase of land and any

176 construction or tenant improvements needed to house AFIS program technology, staff, or
177 laboratory functions.

178 Eligible expenditures shall also include non-bonded debt and finance costs and
179 the reimbursement of extraordinary expenditures incurred by the county after the
180 effective date of this ordinance with regard to the AFIS program.

181 The AFIS levy is intended as supplemental funding to provide expanded crime
182 scene and arrest identification technology and services on a regional basis. This levy
183 shall not at any time provide general criminal justice funding or fund programs or
184 purposes not otherwise consistent with this ordinance.

185 **SECTION 6. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321,
186 the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with
187 the general election on November 6, 2012. The King County director of elections shall
188 cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and
189 general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the said special
190 county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council shall
191 certify that proposition to the King County director of elections in substantially the
192 following form, with such modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

193 The King County council has passed Ordinance ___ concerning this
194 proposition for the automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS)
195 levy. This proposition would replace an expiring levy and fund continued
196 operation of the regional AFIS program, which provides enhanced
197 forensic fingerprint and palmprint technology and services to identify
198 criminals and aid in convictions. It would authorize King County to levy

199 an additional property tax of \$0.0592 (5.92 cents) per \$1,000 of assessed
200 valuation in 2013 and annual increases by the percentage increase in the
201 consumer price index or 1%, whichever is greater, with a maximum
202 increase of 3%, for the five succeeding years. Should this proposition be:

203 Approved []

204 Rejected []

205 SECTION 7. AFIS advisory committee extension. If the levy is approved by
206 the voters in accordance with section 6 of this ordinance, the AFIS advisory committee
207 previously authorized by the voters shall be retained to review AFIS operations and
208 expenditures and make recommendations concerning the AFIS program.

209 SECTION 8. Ratification. Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
210 King County council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the
211 election on November 6, 2012, and any other act consistent with the authority and before
212 the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

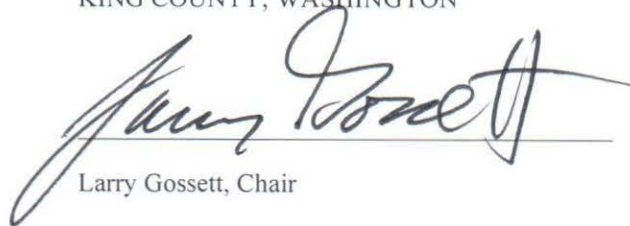
213 SECTION 9. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to

214 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
215 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
216

Ordinance 17381 was introduced on 6/18/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 7/23/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson,
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Mr. Phillips

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

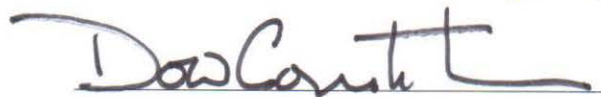

Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 24 day of JULY, 2012.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: None