

Proposed No. 2012-0455.2

## KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse 516 Third Avenue Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

## December 11, 2012

## Ordinance 17504

**Sponsors** Gossett

1	AN ORDINANCE relating to ethics; amending Ordinance
2	12014, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.017,
3	Ordinance 1308, Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C.
4	3.04.020, Ordinance 12014, Section 3, as amended, and
5	K.C.C. 3.04.030, Ordinance 6144, Section 2, as amended,
6	and K.C.C. 3.04.035, Ordinance 9704, Section 8, as
7	amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.037, Ordinance 1308, Section 5,
8	as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.040, Ordinance 1308, Section
9	6, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.050, Ordinance 9704,
10	Section 9, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.055, Ordinance
11	9704, Section 10, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.057,
12	Ordinance 1308, Section 7, as amended, and K.C.C.
13	3.04.060, Ordinance 1321, Section 2, as amended, and
14	K.C.C. 3.04.080, Ordinance 1321, Section 3, and K.C.C.
15	3.04.090, Ordinance 1321, Section 4, and K.C.C. 3.04.100,
16	Ordinance 12138, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C.
17	3.04.120 and Ordinance 9704, Section 13, as amended, and
18	K.C.C. 3.04.130 and repealing Ordinance 1321, Section 5,
19	as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.110.

20	BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:
21	SECTION 1. Ordinance 12014, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.017 are
22	each hereby amended to read as follows:
23	((For the purposes of this chapter, all words shall have their ordinary and usual
24	meanings except those defined in this section which shall have, in addition, the following
25	meanings. In the event of conflict, the specific definitions set forth in this section shall
26	presumptively, but not conclusively, prevail.)) The definitions in this section apply
27	throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
28	A. "Accomplice" means ((a person)) an individual who with knowledge that an
29	action will promote or facilitate the commission of a crime or violation of an ordinance:
30	1. Solicits, commands, encourages or requests another ((person)) individual to
31	commit the crime or violation; or
32	2. Aids or agrees to aid another ((person)) individual in planning or committing
33	the crime or violation.
34	B. "Close relative" means spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, child of
35	domestic partner, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, father-in-
36	law, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or relatives
37	of a domestic partner who would be included in this subsection if the employee and the
38	domestic partner were married.
39	C. "Compensation" means anything of economic value((, however designated,
40	which)) that is paid, granted or transferred, or is to be paid, granted or transferred for, or
41	in consideration of, personal services to any person.

42	((C.)) D. "County action" means any action on the part of the county, including,
43	but not limited to:
44	1. Any decision, determination, finding, ruling or order; and
45	2. Any grant, payment, award, license, contract, transaction, sanction or
46	approval, or the denial thereof or the failure to act with respect thereto. "County action"
47	shall not include actions of the county's judicial branch but shall include employees of the
48	department of judicial administration.
49	((D-)) E. "County employee" or "employee" means any individual who is
50	appointed as an employee by the appointing authority of a county agency, office,
51	department, council, board, commission or other separate unit or division of county
52	government, however designated, but does not include employees of the county's judicial
53	branch. "County employee" also includes county elected officials and members of
54	county boards, commissions, committees or other multimember bodies, but does not
55	include officials or employees of the county's judicial branch but does include employees
56	of the department of judicial administration.
57	((E-)) F. "De minimis personal use" means: personal use that is brief and
58	infrequent, incurs negligible or no additional cost to the county and does not interfere
59	with the conduct of county business.
60	G. "Department" means:
61	1. In the executive branch, an executive department or administrative office that
62	reports to the executive or the county administrative officer, as applicable;
63	2. The department of assessments;
64	3. The ((office of the)) prosecuting attorney's office;

65	4. In the legislative branch, the council together with any subordinate legislative
66	branch agency;
67	5. The department of judicial administration;
68	6. The department of public safety; ((and))
69	7. The office of economic and financial analysis; and
70	8. The department of elections.
71	((F.)) H. "Doing business with the county" or "transactions with the county"
72	means to participate in any proceeding, application, submission, request for ruling or
73	other determination, contract, claim, case or other such a particular matter that the county
74	employee or former county employee in question believes, or has reason to believe:
75	1. Is, or will be, the subject of county action;
76	2. Is one to which the county is or will be a party; or
77	3. Is one in which the county has a direct and substantial proprietary interest.
78	((G.)) I. "Gift or thing of value" or "gift or other thing of value" means anything
79	of economic value or tangible worth that is not compensation. ((, but)) It shall not
80	include: campaign contributions regulated by chapter 42.17 <u>A</u> RCW((5)) <u>or</u> the charter and
81	ordinances implementing ((them.,))it: informational materials exclusively for official or
82	office use((5)); memorials, trophies and plaques of no commercial value(5)); gifts of
83	((twenty)) fifty dollars or less for bona fide, nonrecurring, ceremonial occasions; ((of))
84	any gifts ((which)) that are not used and ((which)) that, within thirty days after receipt,
85	are returned to the donor, or donated to a charitable organization without seeking a tax
86	deduction; or promotional benefits that an employee receives from a travel service

87	provider in connection with official travel if obtained under the same conditions as those
88	offered to the general public at no additional cost to the county.
89	((H.)) J. "Immediate family" means a county employee's spouse, domestic
90	partner, employee's child or the child of an employee's spouse or domestic partner, and
91	other dependent relatives if living in his or her household.
92	$((I_{-}))$ K. "Ombudsman" means the director of the office of citizen complaints
93	established under Section 260 of the King County Charter and K.C.C. chapter 2.52, or his
94	or her designee.
95	$((J_{-}))$ $\underline{L}_{-}$ "Participate" means, in connection with a transaction involving the
96	county, to be involved in a county action personally and substantially as a county
97	employee either directly, or through others through approval, disapproval, decision,
98	recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation or otherwise. However, for the
99	purposes of K.C.C. 3.04.035, "participate" does not include the provision of legal advice
100	or other activities involving the practice of law and does not include, as an elected
101	official, preparation, consideration or enactment of legislation or the performance of
102	legislative duties.
103	((K.)) M. "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, corporation,
104	firm, institution or other entity, whether or not operated for profit. The term does not
105	include governmental units of ((the state of Washington)) or within the United States
106	((unless so specified)).
107	((L.)) N. "Respondent" means the ((person)) individual against whom a

complaint is filed or an investigation is conducted.

109	((M.)) O. "Retaliatory action" means any action by a supervisor or other
110	employee that is intended to embarrass or to harass any ((person)) individual as a result
111	of the ((person)) individual having filed a written complaint with the office of citizen
112	complaints or having raised privately or publicly any concern or question regarding an
113	actual or apparent violation of this chapter.
114	((N. "Thing of value" means anything of tangible worth which is not
115	compensation or a gift.))
116	P. "Substantial financial interest" means a financial interest in a person that
117	exceeds one-tenth of one percent of the outstanding securities of the person, or, if the
118	interest is in an unincorporated business concern, exceeds one percent of the net worth of
119	the concern; or a financial interest that exceeds five percent of the net worth of the
120	employee and the employee's immediate family.
121	SECTION 2. Ordinance 1308, Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.020 are
122	each hereby amended to read as follows:
123	A. No county employee shall request, use or permit the use of county-owned
124	vehicles, equipment, materials or other property or the expenditure of county funds for
125	personal convenience or profit. Use or expenditure is to be restricted to such services as
126	are available to the public generally or for such employee in the conduct of official
127	business. However, de minimis personal use of county-owned property by county
128	employees may be authorized by policies of the executive, council or other elected
129	county officials.
130	B. No county employee shall grant any special consideration, treatment or
131	advantage beyond that which is available to every other citizen.

132	C. Except as authorized by law and in the course of his or her official duties, no
133	county employee shall use the power or authority of his or her office or position with the
134	county in a manner intended to induce or coerce any other person, directly or indirectly,
135	to provide ((such)) the county employee or any other person with any compensation,
136	gift( $(5)$ ) or ((other)) thing of value ((directly or indirectly)).
137	D. No county employee ((may ask for)) shall seek or receive, directly or
138	indirectly, any compensation, $gift((5))$ or thing of value, or promise thereof, for
139	performing or for omitting or deferring the performance of any official duty, or action by
140	the county other than the compensation, costs or fees provided by law.
141	E. County employees are encouraged to participate in the political process on
142	their own time and outside of the workplace by ((working on))assisting a campaign((s))
143	for the election of any ((person)) individual to any office or for the promotion of or
144	opposition to any ballot proposition, but shall not use or authorize the use of the facilities
145	of King County for such purposes except as authorized by ((the provisions of)) RCW
146	((4 <del>2.17.130</del> )) <u>42.17A.555</u> .
147	F. No county employee shall disclose or use for the personal benefit of the
148	employee or his or her immediate family any information acquired in the course of
149	official duties that is not available as a matter of public knowledge or public record.
150	G. No county employee shall engage in retaliatory action.
151	SECTION 3. Ordinance 12014, Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.030 are
152	each hereby amended to read as follows:
153	A. No county employee shall engage in any act ((which)) that is in conflict with
154	the performance of official duties.

- B. A county employee shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest if the employee directly or indirectly:
  - 1. Receives or has any financial interest in any purchase, sale or lease to or by the county of any service or property when ((such)) the financial interest was received or obtained with the prior knowledge that the county intended to purchase, sell or lease such property or service;
- 2. Is beneficially interested or has a substantial financial interest in, ((directly or indirectly,)) or accepts any compensation, gift or thing of value from any other person beneficially interested in, any contract, sale, lease, option or purchase that may be made by, through((,)) or under the supervision of the employee, in whole or in part((, or accepts, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gift or thing of value from any other person beneficially interested therein));
- 3. Accepts or seeks for others, ((directly or indirectly,)) any employment, travel expense, service, information, compensation, gift or thing of value on more favorable terms than those granted to other county employees or the public generally, from any person((5)) doing business, or seeking to do business, with the county for which the employee has responsibility or with regard to which he or she may participate, provided that this subsection shall not apply to the receipt by elected officials, or by employees who are supervised directly by an elected official, of meals, refreshments or transportation within the boundaries of the county when given in connection with meetings with constituents or meetings ((which)) that are informational or ceremonial in nature;

- 4. Accepts((, directly or indirectly,)) any ((gift,)) favor, loan, retainer, entertainment, travel expense, compensation, gift or other thing of value from any person doing business or seeking to do business with the county when such an acceptance may conflict with the performance of the employee's official duties. A conflict shall be deemed to exist where a reasonable and prudent ((person)) individual would believe that ((the gift, compensation, thing of value, or more favorable terms,)) it was given for the purpose of obtaining special consideration or to influence county action. The financing of ((the conduct of)) county election campaigns shall continue to be governed by chapter 42.17A RCW and the provisions of the charter and ordinances implementing it;
- 5. Participates in, influences or attempts to influence, ((directly or indirectly,))
  the selection of, or the conduct of business or a transaction with a person doing or
  seeking to do business with the county if the employee has a <u>substantial</u> financial interest
  in or with said person;
- 6. Discusses or accepts an offer of future employment with any person doing or seeking to do business with the county if either:
- a. the employee knows or has reason to believe that the offer of employment was or is intended, in whole or in part, ((directly or indirectly,)) as compensation or reward for the performance or nonperformance of a duty by the employee during the course of county employment or to influence county action pertaining to the business; or
- b. the employee has responsibility for a matter upon which the person is doing or seeking to do business with the county, unless the employee has ((first disclosed in writing to his or her appointing authority that the employee intends to discuss future employment with a specific person and the appointing authority has designated, in a

memorandum filed with the board of ethics and a copy of which is maintained by the appointing authority, a method of providing for an alternative decision maker with regard to matters involving such person for which the employee otherwise would have responsibility)) given notice in accordance with K.C.C. 3.04.037 and a method of providing for an alternative decision maker for the matter has been designated by the employee's appointing authority in a memorandum filed with the board of ethics, a copy of which is maintained by the appointing authority;

- 7. Within one year of entering county employment ((awards a county contract or)):
- a. participates in a county action benefiting a person that formerly employed ((him or her, provided)) the employee, except that participation ((other than contract award)) may be authorized in a memorandum by the appointing authority following written disclosure by the affected employee and ((that such)) the authorization shall be filed with the board of ethics and a copy maintained by the appointing authority; or
- b. awards a county contract benefitting a person that formerly employed the employee;
- 8. Is an employee, agent, officer, partner, director or consultant, of any person doing or seeking to do business with the county, unless such relationship has been disclosed as provided by this chapter;
- 9.((a-)) Engages in or accepts compensation, employment or renders services for any person or a governmental entity other than the county when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties or would impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties. ((In addition,

the following employees must obtain the prior written consent of their highest ranking	
supervisor authorizing either new or continued employment, or the acceptance of any	
compensation or any thing of value for services performed outside King County	
government:	
(1) the county administrative officer, the chief officer of each executive	
department or administrative office as defined by the provisions of the charter, the	
manager of each division of such department or office, and all ((persons))individuals who	
report directly to ((such individuals))them;	
(2) all nonelected council employees, provided that the personal staff of each	
individual councilmember shall obtain such consent from such councilmember;	
(3) all nonelected employees of the prosecuting attorney;	
(4) all nonelected employees of the department of judicial administration;	
(5) all nonelected employees of the department of assessments; and	
(6) the chief economist of the office of economic and financial analysis.	
b. If such employment or service is deemed by the highest-ranking supervisor	
to pose a conflict of interest, the employee immediately shall divest such employment	
and failure to do so shall be grounds for dismissal));	
10. Enters into a business relationship outside county government:	
a. with any other employee for whom he or she has any supervisory	
responsibility, or	
((11. Enters into a business relationship outside county-government))	
b. with any person with regard to a matter for which the employee has	
responsibility as a county employee;	

((12. Appears on behalf of a person before any regulatory governmental agency, or represents a person in any action or proceeding against the interest of the county in any litigation to which the county is a party, unless the employee has a personal interest in the litigation and this personal interest has been disclosed to the regulatory governmental agency or adjudicating individual or body. A county council member may appear before regulatory governmental agencies on behalf of constituents in the course of his or her duties as a representative of the electorate or in the performance of public or civic obligations; however, no official or employee shall accept a retainer or compensation, or any gift or thing of value that is contingent upon a specific action by a county agency;

13. Directly or indirectly)) 11. ((p))Possesses a substantial ((or controlling))
financial interest in any person which does or seeks to do business with the county,
without disclosing such interest as provided by this chapter((.—A substantial interest is an
interest that exceeds one tenth of one percent of the outstanding securities of the person;
or, if the interest is in an unincorporated business concern, exceeds one percent of the net
worth of such concern; or the financial interest of a person exceeds five percent of the net
worth of the employee and his or her immediate family));

((14. As a county council member has a financial or other private interest in any legislation or other matter coming before the council, and fails to disclose such an interest on the records of the county council. This provision shall not apply if the county council member disqualifies himself or herself from voting by stating the nature and extent of such interest. Any other employee who has a financial or other private interest, and who participates in an action or proposed action of the county council and fails to

268	disclose on the records of the county council the nature and extent of such interest, shall
269	be deemed in violation of this chapter;
270	15.a. Has an interest in any property being considered for revaluation by the
271	county board of appeals and equalization or has a personal interest or connection with
272	another person's petition for revaluation while:
273	(1) an elected county official;
274	(2) the executive's administrative assistants and office manager;
275	(3) county councilmembers' executive secretaries;
276	(4) county administrative officer, the county administrative officer's
277	administrative assistants and the county-administrative officer's confidential secretary;
278	(5) chief officer of each executive department, the chief officer's
279	administrative assistants and confidential secretary;
280	(6) chief officer of each administrative office, the chief officer's
281	administrative assistants and the chief officer's confidential secretary;
282	(7) council administrator, the council administrator's administrative assistants
283	and the council administrator's secretary;
284	(8) the ombudsman and the ombudsman's staff;
285	(9) an employee of the department of assessments;
286	(10) an employee assigned to either the board of equalization or the board of
287	appeals, or both; and
288	(11) any other county employee who has direct contact with the board of
289	appeals and equalization in the carrying out of his or her duties;

290	(12) a member of either the county board of appeals or the board of
291	equalization, or both; and
292	(13) clerk of the council and his or her secretaries.
293	b. All persons listed in subsection A.15.a.(1). through (13). of this section, who
294	wish to appeal to the county board of equalization on a matter of property revaluation
295	shall be governed by the procedure in K.C.C. 3.04.040;
296	16.)) 12. As an appointive member of a board or commission, has a close
297	relative serving on the same board or commission((. For the purposes of this subsection,
298	close relative is defined as:
299	Husband Wife
300	Father Father in law
301	Mother Mother-in-law
302	Brother - Brother-in-law
303	Sister — Sister in law
304	Son in-law — Daughter in-law
305	Niece Nephew
306	Grandparent Grandchild
307	<del>Uncle - Aunt</del>
308	Child - Child of domestic partner
309	Domestic partner———
310	In addition, the relatives of a domestic partner shall be considered close relatives to the
311	same extent such relatives would be included in this subsection if the employee and the
312	domestic partner were married;

313	17. Discloses or uses for the personal benefit of the employee or his or her
314	immediate family any information acquired in the course of official duties which is not
315	available as a matter of public knowledge or public record)); or
316	((18.)) 13. Acts as an accomplice in any act by an immediate family member
317	which, if ((such)) the act were performed by the employee, would be prohibited by ((1.,
318	2., 3., 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 10., 11., 13., 14., 15. or 17. of)) this subsection. However, it shall
319	not be a conflict of interest for ((such)) the family member to enter into a bona fide
320	contract of employment ((which)) that is not intended to influence the action of the
321	county employee.
322	((B. Subsection of A.2., 5., and 14. of this section is not violated by the
323	possession by an employee of a financial interest in a person or other entity which is not a
324	substantial interest as defined by subsection A.13. of this section.))
325	C.1. The following employees must obtain the prior written consent of their
326	highest ranking supervisor authorizing new or continued employment outside King
327	County government, or authorizing the acceptance of any compensation or any thing of
328	value for services performed outside King County government:
329	a. the county administrative officer, the chief officer of each executive
330	department or administrative office as defined by the charter, the manager of each
331	division of the department or office and all individuals who report directly to them;
332	b. all nonelected council employees, except that the personal staff of each
333	individual councilmember shall obtain the consent from the councilmember;
334	c. all nonelected employees of the prosecuting attorney;
335	d. all nonelected employees of the department of judicial administration;

336	e. all nonelected employees of the department of assessments; and
337	f. the chief economist of the office of economic and financial analysis.
338	2. If the employment or service is deemed by the highest-ranking supervisor to
339	pose a conflict of interest, the employee immediately shall divest the employment and
340	failure to do so shall be grounds for dismissal.
341	D. A county employee shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest if the
342	employee appears on behalf of a person before any regulatory governmental agency, or
343	represents a person in any action or proceeding against the interest of the county in any
344	litigation to which the county is a party, unless the employee has a personal interest in the
345	litigation and this personal interest has been disclosed to the regulatory governmental
346	agency or adjudicating individual or body. A county councilmember may appear before
347	regulatory governmental agencies on behalf of constituents in the course of the
348	councilmember's duties as a representative of the electorate or in the performance of
349	public or civic obligations; however, no official or employee shall accept a retainer or
350	compensation, or any gift or thing of value that is contingent upon a specific action by a
351	county agency.
352	E.1. A county councilmember shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest if the
353	councilmember, directly or indirectly, has a substantial financial or other private interest
354	in any legislation or other matter coming before the council, and fails to disclose the
355	interest on the records of the county council. This subsection shall not apply if the
356	county councilmember disqualifies himself or herself from voting by stating the nature
357	and extent of such an interest.

358	2. Any other employee who is not a county councilmember, who, directly or
359	indirectly, has a substantial financial or other private interest in, and who participates in,
360	an action or proposed action of the county council and fails to disclose on the records of
361	the county council the nature and extent of the interest, shall be deemed in violation of
362	this chapter.
363	F.1. A county employee shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest if the
364	employee, directly or indirectly, has an interest in any property being considered for
365	revaluation by the county board of appeals and equalization or has a personal interest or
366	connection with another person's petition for revaluation while the employee is:
367	a. an elected county official;
368	b. the executive's administrative assistant or office manager;
369	c. a county councilmember's executive secretary;
370	d. the county administrative officer, the county administrative officer's
371	administrative assistants or the county administrative officer's confidential secretary;
372	e. the chief officer of an executive department, the chief officer's
373	administrative assistant or the chief officer's confidential secretary;
374	f. the chief officer of an administrative office, the chief officer's administrative
375	assistants or the chief officer's confidential secretary;
376	g. the council administrator, the council administrator's administrative assistant
377	or the council administrator's secretary;
378	h. the ombudsman or the ombudsman's staff;
379	i. an employee of the department of assessments;

380	j. an employee assigned to either the board of equalization or the board of
381	appeals, or both;
382	k. any other county employee who has direct contact with the board of appeals
383	and equalization in the carrying out of his or her duties;
384	1. a member of either the county board of appeals or the board of equalization,
385	or both; or
386	m. The clerk of the council or the clerk's secretary.
387	2. All individuals listed in this subsection who wish to appeal to the county
388	board of equalization on a matter of property revaluation shall be governed by the
389	procedure in K.C.C. 3.04.040.
390	SECTION 4. Ordinance 6144, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.035 are
391	each hereby amended to read as follows:
392	A. For one year after terminating service to the county, a former member of a
393	county board, commission, committee or other multimember body may not appear before
394	that board, commission, committee or other multimember body, or receive compensation
395	for any services rendered on behalf of or for assistance to any person, in relation to any
3 <del>96</del>	county action in which the former member participated during the period of his or her
397	service. This prohibition also applies during the same period of time to any person ((who
398	is a partner, associate or member of a partnership, association, corporation, firm,
399	institution or other entity, whether or not operated for profit, in)) with which the former
400	member has a financial or beneficial interest. However, this prohibition does not apply if
401	the former member's financial or beneficial interest in any entity listed in this subsection

is limited to investments and does not include managerial or other influential authority	1,
including holding controlling interest in any class((es)) of stock.	

- B. For one year after leaving county employment, a former county employee may not have a financial or beneficial interest in a contract or grant that was planned, authorized or funded by a county action in which the former county employee participated during county employment.
- C. For one year after leaving county employment, a former county employee may not assist a person, whether or not for compensation, in any county action in which the former county employee participated during county employment. This subsection does not prohibit a former county employee from rendering assistance to county employees in the course of ((employee organization)) union or guild business.
- D. For one year after leaving county employment, a former employee must disclose his or her past county employment before participation in any county action.

  The disclosure shall be made in writing to the department considering or taking the county action on which the former employee is or would be participating.
- E. A former county employee may not, for the personal benefit of the former employee or a member of the former employee's immediate family, disclose or use any privileged or proprietary information gained by reason of the former employee's county employment unless the information is a matter of public knowledge or is available to the public on request.
- F. A former county employee may not assist any person for compensation on matters in which the former employee is personally prohibited from participating.

424	G. It is not a violation of this chapter for a former county employee to render
425	assistance to a person if the assistance is provided without compensation in any form and
426	is limited to one or more of the following:
427	1. Providing names, work addresses and work telephone numbers of county
428	agencies or county employees, to the extent the information is available as a matter of
429	public record under state law;
430	2. Providing free transportation to another for the purpose of conducting
431	business with a county agency;
432	3. Assisting oneself or another person in obtaining or completing forms required
433	by a county agency for the conduct of a county business;
434	4. Providing assistance to the poor or infirm; or
435	5. Engaging in conduct that is authorized or protected by the constitutions or
436	laws of Washington state or the United States.
437	H.1. This section does not prohibit a former county employee from accepting
438	future employment with the county at any time, including employment with his or her
439	former department.
440	2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a former county employee is not
441	prohibited from appearing before the county or seeking a county action on his or her own
442	behalf to the same extent other persons may appear before or seek actions by the county.
443	I. Except as otherwise limited by this chapter, a former county employee may
444	contract with the county, or participate in a contract with the county, to provide materials,
445	equipment, supplies or services. However, any such a contract must comply with

applicable requirements and procedures related to procurement.

447	SECTION 5. Ordinance 9704, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.037 are
448	each hereby amended to read as follows:
449	Any employee who becomes aware that he or she ((may)) might have a potential
450	conflict of interest ((which)) that arises in the course of his or her official duties shall
451	notify in writing his or her supervisor or appointing authority of ((such)) the potential
452	conflict.
453	Upon receipt of such a notification, the supervisor or appointing authority shall
454	take action to resolve the potential conflict of interest((, including)) within a reasonable
455	time, which may include, but is not limited to, designating ((within a reasonable time)) an
456	alternative employee to perform the duty ((which)) that is involved in the potential
457	conflict. The supervisor or appointing authority shall document the disposition of the
458	potential conflict ((shall be stated)) in writing in files maintained by the ((supervisor or
459	official)) appointing authority. The supervisor or ((official)) appointing authority may
460	request an advisory opinion from the board of ethics before disposing of $((such))$ the
461	potential conflict.
462	SECTION 6. Ordinance 1308, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.040 are
463	each hereby amended to read as follows:
464	All persons deemed to have a conflict of interest, in accordance with K.C.C.
465	3.04.030.((A.))F., and wishing to appeal to the county board of equalization shall be
466	governed by the following procedure;
467	The appeal shall be automatically denied by the county board of equalization
468	without hearing and a minute entry shall be made. The petitioner may then take action to

appeal the decision of the county board of equalization to the ((S))state Board of Appeals
in accordance with RCW 84.08.130.

However, the  $((B))\underline{b}$ oard of  $((E))\underline{e}$ qualization may grant a change of venue to a  $((B))\underline{b}$ oard of  $((E))\underline{e}$ qualization of another county, as provided in K.C.C. Title 2, in lieu of automatic denial, when:

A. A quorum cannot be achieved due to members of the board disqualifying themselves because of conflicts of interest or the appearance of fairness doctrine; or

B. When equalization is the basis for an appeal by a member of the board, assistants to the board, or any member of the county governmental authority or his or her own property or on property in which that person has an interest.

SECTION 7. Ordinance 1308, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.050 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

A. All ((candidates for county elective office, and)) nominees for appointment to any county elective office except for judicial candidates, within two weeks of becoming a ((candidate or)) nominee, and all elected officials who are defined as county employees under K.C.C. 3.04.017, paid in whole or in part by county funds, shall file with the board of ethics a statement of financial and other interests as ((defined)) prescribed in subsection D. of this section. ((These)) This requirement((s)) may be satisfied by filing with the board of ethics a signed copy of the report required to be filed by RCW ((42.17.240, if this report contains an original signature of the person filing the report. The board of ethics shall forward a copy of such statements, reports and forms to the elections division, or its successor agency, within ten days of their receipt)) 42.17A.700.

- B.1. Within ((ten days)) two weeks of employment or appointment and on or before April 15 of each year thereafter, the following employees shall file a ((written)) statement of financial and other interests, as ((defined)) prescribed in subsection D. of this section, with the board of ethics: all elected county officials; all employees appointed by the county executive; all employees appointed by the county administrative officer or department directors and who are subject to the approval of the county executive; all employees of the office of economic and financial analysis; and such additional employees as may be determined by the board of ethics in accordance with criteria adopted by the board of ethics under subsection C. of this section. Statements of financial and other interests that are to be filed within two weeks of employment or appointment shall report on information for the preceding twelve calendar months. Annual statements of financial and other interests shall report on information for the preceding calendar year.
- 2. Within two weeks of becoming a nominee for appointment to county boards and commissions, the nominee shall file with the board of ethics a ((written)) statement of financial and other interests, as ((defined)) prescribed in subsection D. of this section, ((with the board of ethics)) reporting on information for the preceding twelve calendar months.
- C. The board of ethics shall adopt by rule criteria for determining which employees, in addition to those designated in subsection B. of this section, are required to complete and file statements of financial and other interests. The criteria must consider the association between the duties and responsibilities of employees and the conflict of interest provisions in K.C.C. 3.04.030.

514	D.((1.)) The statement of financial and other interests required to be filed under
515	this section must include the following information of which the employee has, or
516	reasonably should have, knowledge for the reporting ((year)) period:
517	1.a. ((compensation, gifts and things of value:
518	(1))) the name of each person engaged in a transaction((, as defined by K.C.C.
519	3.04.017.F,)) with ((King County in which the employee may participate or has
520	responsibility for, from whom the employee or a member of the employee's immediate
521	family received any compensation, gift or thing of value)) the county in which the
522	employee may participate or has responsibility for, where the employee or a member of
523	the employee's immediate family received any compensation, gift or thing of value,
524	possessed a financial interest or held a position with the person; ((and))
525	(((2))) <u>b.</u> the name of the individual who received the compensation, gift or
526	thing of value from, possessed the financial interest in, or held a position with the person
527	engaged in the transaction with the county, and the individual's relationship to the
528	employee; and
529	((b. financial interests:
530	(1) the name of each person engaged in a transaction, as defined by K.C.C.
531	3.04.017.F, with King County in which the employee may participate or has
532	responsibility for, in whom the employee or a member of the employee's immediate
533	family possessed a financial interest; and
534	(2) the name of the individual who possessed the financial interest and the
535	individual's relationship to the employee;
36	c. positions:

537	(1) the name of each person engaged in a transaction, as defined by K.C.C.
538	3.04.017.F, with King County in which the employee-may participate or has
539	responsibility for, with whom the employee or a member of the employee's immediate
540	family held a position;
541	(2) the name of the individual who held the position and the individual's
542	relationship to the employee; and
543	(3))) c. the title of the position; and
544	d. real property:
545	(1))) 2.a. real property, listed by street address, assessor parcel number or
546	legal description that was ((either)) involved in or the subject of an action by ((King)) the
547	((C))ounty)), in which the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family
548	possessed a financial interest, except that property for which the only county action was
549	valuation for tax purposes does not have to be reported except by those employees of the
550	department of assessments and the board of appeals who are required to file a report
551	related to the valuation;
552	(((2))) <u>b.</u> the name of the individual who possessed the financial interest and
553	the individual's relationship to the employee; and
554	(((3))) <u>c.</u> the name of the King County department involved in the transaction.
555	((2. Property for which the only county action was valuation for tax purposes
556	does not have to be reported except by those employees of the department of assessments
557	and the board of appeals who are required to file a report.))- d. The use the individual
558	made of the real property, such as recreation, personal residence or income, does not have
559	to be reported.

560	E. ((For purposes of the statements of financial and other interests required to be
561	filed annually, the "reporting year" means the preceding calendar year. For purposes of
562	the statements of financial and other interests to be filed within ((ten days))two weeks of
563	employment or appointment, the "reporting year" means the preceding twelve calendar
564	months.
565	F. An individual filing a statement of financial affairs in accordance with
566	subsections A. and B. of this section shall execute a written declaration that:
567	1. Recites that the statement is declared by the person to be true, complete and
568	correct under penalty of perjury;
569	2. Is signed by the person;
570	3. States the date and place of the declaration's execution; and
571	4. States that the declaration is so declared under the laws of the state of
572	Washington.
573	G.)) The statement of financial and other interests must be signed with location of
574	signing, dated and declared to be complete, true and correct under penalty of perjury of
575	the laws of the state of Washington.
576	F. The financing of election campaigns shall continue to be governed by other
577	applicable local, state and federal laws, and not by the provisions of this chapter.
578	((H.)) G. Filing of the ((written)) statement of financial and other interests((, as
579	defined in this section,)) does not relieve the employee of the duty to notify his or her
580	supervisor of a potential conflict of interest as required by K.C.C. 3.04.037.
581	((L)) <u>H</u> . The board may adopt rules and regulations by which affected employees
582	may request suspension or modification of the requirements to disclose financial and

other interests set forth in this section if the literal application of the requirements would
cause a manifestly unreasonable hardship and the suspension or modification would not
frustrate the purposes of this chapter.

- ((J.)) <u>I.</u> The board of ethics may adopt necessary and appropriate rules, regulations and forms related to completing, filing, maintaining and disclosing statements of financial and other interests under this section. The board((, if adopting the rules, regulations and forms,)) shall ((adopt them as provided in)) follow the requirements of K.C.C. chapter 2.98 for rule making.
- SECTION 8. Ordinance 9704, Section 9, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.055 are each hereby amended to read as follows:
- A. It shall be the responsibility of the ombudsman to investigate and report apparent criminal violations of this chapter to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and to enforce this ordinance according to the powers granted herein. The ombudsman is expressly authorized to serve as an enforcement officer for this chapter and to impose the civil penalties authorized in K.C.C. 3.04.060.
- B.1. Complaints alleging a violation of this chapter shall be filed with the ombudsman.
- 2. The complaint shall describe the basis for the complainant's belief that this chapter has been violated. Any such a complaint shall be in writing, ((verified and)) signed by the complainant with location of signing, dated and declared to be true and correct to the best of the complainant's knowledge under penalty of perjury of the laws of the state of Washington. The complainant may state in writing whether the complainant wishes his or her name not to be disclosed in accordance with RCW 42.56.240(2). ((The

complaint shall describe the basis for the complainant's belief that this chapter has been violated.))

- 3. Any complaint filed under this chapter must be filed within five years from the date of the violation. However, if it is shown that the violation was not discovered because of concealment by the person charged, then the complaint must be filed within two years from the date the violation was discovered or reasonably should have been discovered.
- C. Upon receipt of a complaint meeting the requirements of subsection B. of this section, and upon a determination that the alleged conduct could constitute a violation of this chapter, the ombudsman shall cause to be served or mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the complaint to the person alleged to have violated this chapter within twenty days after the filing of said complaint, and shall promptly make an investigation thereof. If the ombudsman determines that the complaint does not meet the requirements of subsection B. or C. of this section, the ombudsman shall inform the complainant in writing of that determination and the reason.
- D. ((The)) An investigation by the ombudsman under this chapter shall be directed to ascertain the facts concerning the alleged violation or violations of this chapter ((alleged in the complaint)) and shall be conducted in an objective and impartial manner((and in)). In furtherance of the investigation the ombudsman is authorized to use the subpoena power to compel sworn testimony from any person, and to require the production of any records relevant or material to the investigation except information ((which)) that is legally privileged or otherwise required by law not to be disclosed.

628	E. During the investigation, the ombudsman shall consider any statement of
629	position or evidence with respect to the allegations of the complaint ((which)) that the
630	complainant or respondent((5)) wishes to submit.
631	F. The results of the investigation shall be reduced to written findings of fact and
632	the finding shall be made that there either is or is not reasonable cause for believing that
633	the respondent has violated this chapter.
634	G. If a finding is made that there is no reasonable cause, said finding shall be
635	served or mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the complainant and the
636	respondent, and a copy shall be provided to the board of ethics.
637	H.1. If the finding is made that reasonable cause exists to believe that the
638	respondent has violated this chapter, the ombudsman shall prepare an order to that effect,
639	a copy of which shall be served or mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to
640	the respondent, and the original thereof filed with the board of ethics. The ombudsman
641	shall provide a copy of the order to the ((office of the)) prosecuting attorney's office.
642	Such a reasonable cause order shall include:
643	a. a finding that one or more violations of the chapter has occurred;
644	b. the factual basis for the finding; ((and))
645	c. any civil penalties; and
646	d. a notice informing the respondent that the respondent has the right to request
647	a hearing before the board of ethics as set forth in K.C.C. 3.04.057.
648	2. In determining civil penalties, the ombudsman may consider any notification
649	made by the employee under K.C.C. 3.04.037 as a mitigating factor.

650	3. If the respondent does not request an appeal hearing in a timely manner under
651	K.C.C. 3.04.057, the ombudsman shall provide a copy of the reasonable cause order to
652	the complainant and the respondent's appointing authority.
653	I.1. At any stage in the investigation, the respondent may agree to an early
654	resolution agreement in lieu of a finding of reasonable cause by the ombudsman.
655	2. An early resolution agreement may not be appealed.
656	3. The agreement shall be in writing and signed by the ombudsman and the
657	respondent.
658	4. The respondent shall acknowledge in the agreement that an ethical violation
659	has occurred and that the agreement may not be appealed. The respondent may include a
660	statement explaining circumstances surrounding the ethical violation.
661	5. The agreement shall identify the violations of the chapter that occurred, the
662	factual basis for the violation and any civil penalties.
663	6.a. The early resolution agreement is not effective unless approved by the
664	board of ethics. If approved by the board of ethics, the board shall send a copy of the
665	approved early resolution agreement to the ombudsman, who shall forward a copy to the
666	respondent, the respondent's appointing authority, to the prosecuting attorney's office and
667	to the complainant.
668	b. If the early resolution agreement is not approved by the board of ethics, the
669	board shall notify the ombudsman.
670	SECTION 9. Ordinance 9704, Section 10, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.057 are
671	each hereby amended to read as follows:

A. Any respondent ((aggrieved by)) who disagrees with an order of reasonable
cause of the ombudsman may file a written request((-in-writing)), within twenty days of
the service of the order upon the respondent or delivery of the order by certified mail, for
an appeal hearing before the board of ethics. The request shall be filed with the board of
ethics, with a copy provided to the ombudsman. The request shall cite the order appealed
from and specify with particularity the findings being contested((. The request shall be
filed with the board of ethics, with a copy provided to the ombudsman));

- B. Any order of reasonable cause issued by the ombudsman pursuant to K.C.C. 3.04.055 shall become final twenty days after service of the order or delivery of the order by certified mail, unless a timely written request for an appeal hearing is filed as set forth above((-is received by the board of ethics within the twenty-day period));
- C. If an order of ((the ombudsman)) reasonable cause has been timely appealed, a hearing shall be conducted by the board of ethics for the purpose of affirming, ((denying)) reversing or modifying the order. The parties to the hearing shall be the respondent and the ombudsman or his or her designee. There shall be a verbatim record kept of the hearing and the board of ethics shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations, issue subpoenas and compel attendance, take evidence and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda or other records relevant or material to the hearing. The burden of proving that a violation occurred shall at all times be upon the ombudsman. The board of ethics's decision shall be based upon a preponderance of the evidence. Such a hearing shall be conducted within a reasonable time after receipt of the request for appeal. Written notice of the time and place of the

694	hearing shall be given to the parties at least ten days prior to the hearing date(( of the
695	hearing to the parties));
696	D. At the hearing, each party shall have the following rights:
697	1. To call and examine witnesses on any matter relevant to the issues raised by
698	the order of the ombudsman or his or her designee;
699	2. To introduce documentary and physical evidence;
700	3. To cross-examine opposing witnesses on any relevant matter;
701	4. To impeach any witness regardless of which party first called the witness to
702	testify;
703	5. To rebut evidence against him or her; and
704	6. To represent himself or herself or to be represented by anyone of his or her
705	choice who is lawfully permitted to do so;
706	E. Following review of the evidence submitted, the board shall within a
707	reasonable time enter written findings and conclusions and shall affirm or modify the
708	order previously issued if the board finds that one or more violations of this chapter has
709	occurred. The board shall reverse the order if it finds no violations of this chapter have
710	occurred. A copy of the board's decision shall be served or mailed, by certified mail,
711	return receipt requested, to the respondent, and the original thereof retained by the board
712	The board shall provide a copy of its decision to the ombudsman, the respondent's
713	appointing authority, the ((office of the)) prosecuting attorney's office and the
714	complainant.
715	SECTION 10. Ordinance 1308, Section 7, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.060 are
716	each hereby amended to read as follows:

A. ((Criminal Penalties...)) Any negligent or willful violation of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a misdemeanor and upon conviction be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed ninety days; or both;

B. ((Civil Penalties and Disciplinary Action.)) 1. Any elected official who commits a violation of this chapter ((shall)) may be subjected to penalties as provided by RCW 42.12.010 and the King County Charter, and ((shall)) may also be subjected to a civil penalty of an amount not to exceed the lesser of one month of the respondent's county pay or the amount authorized by law. ((Any person having an existing contract with King County or seeking to obtain a contract who willfully attempts to secure preferential treatment in his/her dealings with the county by offering any valuable consideration, thing of value or gift, whether in the form of services, loan, thing or promise, in any form to any county official or employee, shall have his/her current contracts with the county canceled and shall not be able to bid on any other county contract for a period of two years.))

2. An employee of the county who commits a violation of this chapter ((shall)) may be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including termination from employment; provided that such disciplinary action is consistent with Career Service Guidelines and collective bargaining agreements. An employee of the county who commits a violation of this chapter ((shall))may also be subjected to a civil penalty; provided that such penalty shall not exceed the lesser of one month of the respondent's county pay or the amount authorized by law.

739	<ol><li>Members of boards and commissions who commit a violation of this chapter</li></ol>
740	((shall)) may be subjected to immediate removal from such appointment.

C. Civil and criminal liability under the provisions of this section shall be imposed on any person who either directly or as an accomplice commits a violation of this chapter.

D. ((A county employee who engages in retaliatory action as defined herein shall be subject to civil and criminal penalties as set forth in this section)) Any person having an existing contract with King County or seeking to obtain a contract who willfully attempts to secure preferential treatment in his/her dealings with the county by offering any valuable consideration, gift or thing of value, whether in the form of services, loan, thing or promise, in any form to any county official or employee, shall have his/her current contracts with the county canceled and shall not be able to bid on any other county contract for a period of two years.

SECTION 11. Ordinance 1321, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.080 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

There is created a board of ethics, composed of five members, two to be appointed by the county executive, two to be appointed by the county executive from a list of nominees submitted by the county council, and the fifth, who shall be chair((man)), to be appointed by the county executive from a list of nominees submitted by the other four members. All appointments are to be confirmed by the county council. The terms of the board members shall be three years. The first three members shall be appointed for one, two and three-year terms respectively. The chair((man)) shall have a three-year term; the other terms are to be determined by lot. A member of the board of ethics may

762	be removed for just cause by a two-thirds vote of the county council, after written charges
763	have been served on the member and a public hearing has been held by the county
764	council. The board shall be advisory and shall meet as frequently as it deems necessary.
765	A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum.
766	SECTION 12. Ordinance 1321, Section 3 and K.C.C. 3.04.090 are each hereby
767	amended to read as follows:
768	The purpose of the board of ethics shall be to insure proper implementation and
769	interpretation of the code of ethics ((and to investigate and report on conflicts of interest))
770	under this chapter.
771	SECTION 13. Ordinance 1321, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.100 are
772	each hereby amended to read as follows:
773	((A.)) Whenever requested by a county officer or employee, or whenever it deems
774	it in the public interest, the board of ethics shall render advisory opinions, in writing,
775	concerning questions of ethics, conflicts of interest, and the applicability of the code of
776	ethics. Copies of the opinion shall be delivered to any officer or employee requesting the
777	opinion, the ombudsman, the county executive and all members of the King County
778	council. ((Such opinion may also be released to the public at the discretion of the board
779	with such omissions as may be necessary to protect the confidence and privacy of county
780	officers or employees. A written copy of the board's opinion shall be delivered to the
781	officer or employee requesting the opinion.
782	B. The board shall hear appeals from orders of the ombudsman as provided in
783	this chapter.))

784	SECTION 14. Ordinance 1321, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.110 are
785	each hereby repealed.
786	SECTION 15. Ordinance 12138, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.120 are
787	each hereby amended to read as follows:
788	A.1. Each consultant entering into a contract to provide professional or technical
789	services to the county costing in excess of the amount specified in K.C.C. 4.16.095 shall
790	file both with the King County board of ethics and the executive a signed, sworn written
791	statement disclosing the following information:
792	a. any office or directorship in the consultant held by any county employee or
793	any member of his or her immediate family;
794	b. any financial interest in the consultant held or received by any county
795	employee or any member of his or her immediate family as follows:
796	(1) ownership of over five percent of the stock or other form of interest in the
797	consultant; and
798	(2) receipt of any compensation, gift or thing of value from the consultant;
799	c. a list of all contracts between the consultant and the county in the five years
800	immediately preceding the presently contemplated contract including the amount of
801	money paid by the county to the consultant in accordance with to each contract;
802	d. any position or positions on any county board or commission, whether
803	salaried or unsalaried, held by any officer or director of the consultant in the five years
804	immediately preceding the presently contemplated contract; and
805	e. any other information known to the consultant about any interest or
806	relationship whatsoever between any county employee, including any member of his or

807	her immediate family, and the consultant, other than that disclosed in accordance with
808	subsection A.1.a. through d. of this section.
809	2. Unless otherwise specified in this section, the information disclosed shall
810	cover the period twenty-four months before and including the date of filing the sworn
811	statement.
812	3. A consultant filing a King County consultant disclosure form in accordance
813	with this section shall execute a signed, dated with location of signing, written
814	declaration that((÷
815	a. recites that)) the information in the disclosure form is ((declared by the
816	consultant to be)) complete, true((, complete)) and correct under penalty of perjury of((;
817	b. is signed by the consultant;
818	c. states the date and place of the declaration's execution; and
819	d. states that the declaration is so declared under)) the laws of the state of
820	Washington.
821	B. No payment shall be made on any contract with any consultant until five days
822	after receipt by the board of ethics and the executive of the information required to be
823	disclosed by this section.
824	C. For purposes of this section, "consultant" means a person who by experience,
825	training and education has established a reputation or ability to provide professional or
826	technical services, as defined in K.C.C. 4.16.010, on a discrete, nonrecurring basis over a
827	limited and preestablished term as an independent contractor to the county.
828	SECTION 16. Ordinance 9704, Section 13, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.04.130 are
829	each hereby amended to read as follows:

The ombudsman and the board of ethics are each authorized to implement such forms, administrative processes, and operational procedures as are necessary to comply with the provisions of this chapter((; provided that a)). Any rules governing the conduct of contested hearings shall be promulgated in compliance with K.C.C. chapter 2.98, Rules of County Agencies.

The executive is directed to prepare, with the assistance of council staff, the office of the prosecuting attorney, the ombudsman and the board of ethics, information regarding the provisions of this chapter to be made available to employees and members of boards and commissions. ((†))The availability of these materials and of copies of this chapter shall be described in a summary form, which shall be distributed to all new county employees ((on or before April 20, 1994 and an acknowledgment of receipt of such form shall be signed and returned by each employee to the office of human resource management on or before May 20, 1994. Each new employee)), who shall sign and return ((such)) the form ((prior to)) within two weeks of commencing work for King County or at the new employee orientation, whichever is sooner. A summary of the

ethics code shall also be distributed to all county employees at least once every two years,

and any time there are material changes to this chapter.

847

Ordinance 17504 was introduced on 11/26/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/10/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Mr. Ferguson

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Larry Gossett, Chair

20012

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

ATTEST: