

October 7, 1997

Introduced By:

Hague
Fimia
Derdowski

chartproc nkl
10/10/97 nl

Proposed No.:

97-581

MOTION NO. **10337**

A MOTION relating to the council's continued review of the
1996-97 Charter Review Commission's recommendations and
council introduced charter amendments

WHEREAS, Section 800 of the King County Charter requires that the charter be
reviewed at least once every ten years by an appointed advisory committee of
knowledgeable citizens representing a diversity of the public that King County serves; and

WHEREAS, the 1996-97 Charter Review Commission was appointed by Executive
Locke and confirmed by the metropolitan King County council to fulfill the requirement of
Section 800 of the King County Charter; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the commission's mission as assigned by the executive
was to review all existing provisions of the charter and develop recommendations for any
technical amendments to improve the operation of county government; review all existing
provisions of the charter and develop recommendations for any necessary structural
changes to improve the organization of county government; and assess King County's role
as a regional government and to recommend any necessary amendments to improve the
county's ability to deliver regional services; and

1 WHEREAS, the 1996-97 Charter Review Commission forwarded twelve
2 recommendations to the metropolitan King County council for consideration including ten
3 charter amendments and two ordinances; and

4 WHEREAS, the council considered the ten charter amendments at a series of
5 Committee-of-the-Whole meetings from July 7, 1997 to September 15, 1997; and

6 WHEREAS, the council placed five of these charter amendments on the general
7 election ballot for November, 1997; and

8 WHEREAS, the council considered two council-initiated charter amendments and
9 placed one on the general election ballot for November, 1997; and

10 WHEREAS, the time available to consider the commission's recommendations was
11 very limited; and

12 WHEREAS, the council chose to consider the two ordinances which were not
13 charter amendments after the deadlines passed for placement of issues on the general
14 election ballot for November, 1997; and

15 WHEREAS, the charter is the "constitutional" document for the county and charter
16 amendments must be considered very carefully; and

17 WHEREAS, this is the first comprehensive charter review to occur after the King
18 County/METRO merger; and

19 WHEREAS, certain proposed charter amendments would change sections of the
20 charter which were the subject of inter-jurisdictional negotiations and may unintentionally
21 affect the results of those negotiations; and

22 WHEREAS, certain proposed charter amendments raise legal issues requiring
23 substantial legal analysis that could result in redrafting;

1 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County :

2 (1) The following process shall be used to consider the charter amendments and
3 ordinances which were submitted by the 1996-97 Charter Review Commission or
4 introduced by members but not acted upon by the Council in September, 1997:

5 (a) The council will seek a thorough review of the commission's recommendations
6 and council introduced charter amendments and will work to develop a consensus or a
7 strong majority position which respectfully accepts, rejects, or modifies proposed
8 ordinances;

9 (b) Proposed Ordinances 97-134; 97-402, 97-403, 97-405, 97-406, 97-409, 97-411
10 and 97-412 shall remain in the Committee of the Whole;

11 (c) The Committee-of-the-Whole shall begin its review of these ordinances in
12 January, 1998, according to the following schedule:

13 (1) Proposed Ordinances 97-405, 97-409, and 97-412 shall be considered
14 beginning in January, 1998, and

15 (2) Proposed Ordinances 97-134; 97-402, 97-403; 97-406, and 97-411 shall
16 be considered beginning in April, 1998;

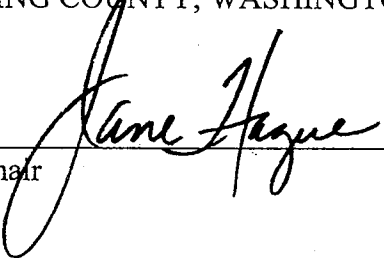
17 (d) The Committee-of-the-Whole will complete its review of possible charter
18 amendments in July, 1998, consistent with time frames for placing issues on the general
19 election ballot in November, 1998.

20 (2) The Council shall review the makeup and methods of appointment of future Charter
21 Review Commissions with the goal of achieving equitable geographic balance in their
22 structure.

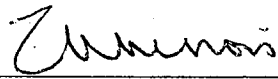
1 (3) Should the voters approve in November, 1997, the charter amendment to create an
2 independent Board of Ethics, the council shall begin review of an implementing ordinance
3 for the Board of Ethics beginning in January, 1998.

4
5 PASSED by a vote of 11 to 0 this 13th day of October,
6 1997.

7 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
8 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

9
10 
Chair

11 ATTEST:

12 
13 Clerk of the Council

14 Attachments:

15 None.