

June 5, 1996

Introduced By: RON SIMS

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Proposed No.:

96-506

ORDINANCE NO. **12383**

1
2 AN ORDINANCE related to the support of
3 the King County Law Library; recognizing
4 the need for additional financial support
5 for the King County Law Library; and
6 directing the Director of the Department
7 of Judicial Administration to reallocate
8 from the current twelve dollars to
9 fifteen dollars the portion of Superior
10 Court civil filing fees paid to the
11 credit of the Library as provided by RCW
12 27.24.070.

13 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

14 SECTION 1. Findings of Fact.

15 A. The primary funding source which supports the
16 operations of the King County Law Library comes from fees
17 assessed on civil filings in District and Superior Court.
18 The filing fee funding mechanism uses a fixed fee formula set
19 by the Legislature. The portion of the filing fee paid in
20 Superior Court designated for the support of the King County
21 Law Library has remained unchanged since April, 1992.

22 B. Filing fee income has failed to keep pace with the
23 growing cost of law library operations driven primarily by
24 escalating legal publication costs which account for half of
25 the Library's operating expenditures. Even with stringent
26 collection maintenance practices, the costs of providing a
27 legal collection to support the research needs of the
28 judiciary, prosecutor's office, government officials,
29 practicing bar and members of the general public has

1 increased 21% in the three year period 1993 -1995. During
2 this same three-year period, District and Superior Court
3 filing fee income has failed to keep pace with these
4 increasing costs.

5 C. Concerned about the failure of the law library's
6 existing funding sources to generate adequate funds to
7 support current operating demands, in November of 1995 the
8 Board of Trustees of the King County Law Library revised the
9 existing borrowing policies and instituted an annual
10 subscriber fee for attorneys, businesses, and residents of
11 the County who wish to borrow books from the library.

12 D. While the institution of this fee has created a new
13 source of revenue, the Library has adopted a deficit budget
14 for the third year in a row. In prior deficit budget years,
15 the Library reduced spending by delaying special projects,
16 curtailing the reinstatement of lapsed collection
17 subscriptions, and limiting spending for new books. The size
18 of the deficit projected for 1996 makes such practices
19 impracticable as the sole remedy.

20 E. An additional strain has been placed on the
21 Library's 1996 budget by the inclusion of operating costs
22 tied to preparations for the opening of the Library's branch
23 operation in the Kent Regional Justice Center.

24 F. RCW 27.24.070 provides that upon a showing of need,
25 the twelve dollar portion of the Superior Court fee paid for
26 the support of the Law Library may be increased up to fifteen
27 dollars by the County Council upon the request of the Law
28 Library Board of Trustees. The Law Library Board of Trustees

1 has requested that the County Council reallocate the portion
2 of the Superior Court filing fee paid for the support of the
3 Law Library from the current twelve dollars to fifteen
4 dollars as soon as possible.

5 SECTION 2. The Director of the Department of Judicial
6 Administration is directed to reallocate from the current
7 twelve dollars to fifteen dollars the portion of the filing
8 fee paid to the credit of the King County Law Library as
9 provided by RCW 27.24.070.

10 SECTION 3. On or before August 1, 1996 a report and review
11 of Law Library financial status including the development of
12 a proposed budget for the Kent Regional Justice Center branch
13 law library shall be prepared by the King County Law Library
14 and transmitted to the Council and the Executive. The report
15 shall include a recommendation on whether to include in the
16 1997 County budget an appropriation to the Law Library fund
17 to cover any projected Library budgetary shortfall resulting
18 from operating costs associated with the Kent Regional
19 Justice Center branch law library facility. The report also
20 shall address potential funding sources, including but not
21 limited to Criminal Justice Excise Tax revenues or from the
22 County general fund.

23 SECTION 4. To assist the Council in reviewing the future
24 needs of the Law Library, the Law Library Board of Trustees
25 shall continue to submit to the Executive and the Council a
26 proposed Kent Regional Justice Center Law Library budget with
27 a request for supplemental funding on or before the first
28 Monday in September each year.

1 SECTION 5. Pursuant to RCW 27.24.040 the Law Library Board
2 of Trustees shall, on or before the first Monday in September
3 each year, submit an annual report to the County Council
4 giving the condition of their trust with a financial report
5 showing all receipts and disbursements of money.

6 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 10th
7 day of June, 1996.

8 PASSED by a vote of 12 to 0 this 15th day of
9 July, 1996.

10 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
11 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

12 Louise Miller
13 VICE Chair

14 ATTEST:

15 Gerald A. Peterson
16 Clerk of the Council

17 APPROVED this 25th day of July, 1996.

18 Ray Solbe
19 King County Executive

20 Attachments: None