

09/05/97 9:56 AM

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Introduced By:

EMSrvw3/cgh/js/we

Proposed No.:

97-554

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ORDINANCE NO. **12849**

AN ORDINANCE directing the Executive to evaluate the provision of county-wide emergency medical services and to establish an EMS Financial Planning Task Force, and declaring an emergency.

PREAMBLE:

Emergency medical services are among the most vital services provided by the county to its residents. Since its initial development in 1977, the county's emergency medical services program has become a model for similar programs world-wide and is now a firmly established regional system on which citizens rely.

The county council fully supports the continued provision of this invaluable service and believes it should be afforded a long-term, stable funding source. The current, near total reliance on a six-year voter-approved levy puts the program's funding in regular jeopardy and connotes that the county considers it an optional program. Emergency medical services are among the county's most highly demanded and respected services and, because of the crucial, life-saving aid provided, are not considered optional. These services are critical and deserve a secure funding base that supports an appropriate level of service.

The county council is committed to researching more secure, permanent funding sources for this important program and, therefore, is directing that a Task Force be established to fully analyze potential funding alternatives. In addition, in order to help guide the development of this program, the county council is directing the executive to evaluate and pursue various means to better educate citizens on the use of emergency medical services as well as to report annually on various factors related to the provision of emergency medical services, including trends that might affect demand and financial estimates for the upcoming years.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

1 SECTION 1. Findings. Because the directives contained in this ordinance are so closely
2 tied to the proposed emergency medical services levy as outlined in proposed ordinance 97-392,
3 the county council finds it necessary to approve this ordinance in conjunction with proposed
4 ordinance 97-392. Proposed ordinance 97-392 must be effective by September 19, 1997 in order
5 to meet the deadline for the November 1997 ballot. Therefore, it is necessary to enact this
6 ordinance as an emergency so that it may be effective at the same time as proposed ordinance 97-
7 392.

8 SECTION 2. Annual Review. By September 1 of each year that the county-wide EMS
9 levy is collected, the executive shall prepare and present to the council an evaluation of the
10 following:

11 A. implementation status of the policies, plans and strategic initiatives included in the
12 Emergency Medical Services Strategic Plan;

13 B. trends in the health care industry that might affect demand for emergency medical
14 services, including, but not limited to, enrollment criteria for and service provided by the state's
15 basic health plan;

16 C. emergency medical services provided to special populations including the elderly and
17 citizens who are not fluent in english; and

18 D. estimated expenditure levels and revenue assumptions for the upcoming levy year and
19 the associated levy rate.

20 SECTION 3. User Education. The executive shall evaluate whether specific
21 population groups rely on emergency medical services for non-emergency health care,
22 and shall develop and implement an educational outreach plan and materials designed to
23 better inform citizens of the various health care options available to them other than
24 emergency medical services. This evaluation and plan shall be presented to the county
25 council in conjunction with the first annual review outlined in section 2 of this ordinance.

1 SECTION 4. EMS Financial Planning Task Force. The executive shall appoint a fifteen-
2 member EMS financial planning task force, to be confirmed by the county council. This task force
3 will work in cooperation with the EMS advisory committee recommended by the 1998-2003
4 Emergency Medical Services Strategic Plan.

5 A. By December 31, 1998, this task force will present to the county council an analysis of
6 long-term funding alternatives that would allow the county to reduce its reliance on property tax
7 levies to support emergency medical services.

8 B. This task force shall consist of the director of the Seattle-King County division of
9 public health, the medical program director for the King County emergency medical services
10 division, the director of the office of budget and strategic planning, the director of the department
11 of finance, two representatives from the county council, 1 representative from each city within the
12 county with a population over 50,000, two representatives from smaller cities appointed by the
13 Suburban Cities Association, two fire district commissioners and two citizens-at-large from the
14 unincorporated area.

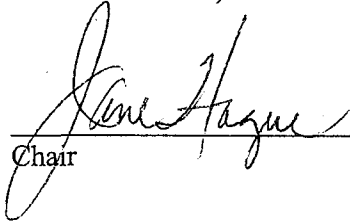
12849

SECTION 5. Emergency. For the reasons set forth in section one of this ordinance, the county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, or safety or for the support of county government and existing public institutions.

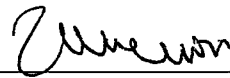
INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 8th day of September, 1997

PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 on this 8th day of September, 1997

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

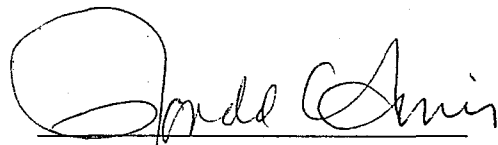

Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Council

DEEMED ENACTED WITHOUT
COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S SIGNATURE.
DATED: 9/8/97

APPROVED this 8th day of September, 1997


King County Executive

Attachments: None