

December 12, 1997

Introduced By:

Greg Nickels, Dwight Pelz,
Maggi Fimia, Cynthia
Sullivan, Larry Phillips

12/16/97 clerk
DSemsord.ss

Proposed No.:

97-700

ORDINANCE NO. **12944**

AN ORDINANCE relating to the funding and provision of
Medic One emergency medical services; providing for the
submission to the electorate of King County, at a special
election on February 3, 1998, a proposition imposing the levy
of a regular property tax each year for three years, collection
beginning in 1999, at a rate of \$.29 or less per \$1,000 of
assessed valuation, to continue to provide Medic One
emergency medical services; and declaring an emergency.

PREAMBLE:

Emergency medical services, publicly known as Medic One, are a well-integrated, publicly-funded, emergency medical service system that is designed to provide an efficient and effective response to medical emergencies. The Medic One emergency medical services system includes a tiered response system that includes basic life support services provided by fire department and fire district emergency medical technicians, advanced life support (paramedic) services, and regional support programs and services that provide medical oversight and direction, citizen and emergency personnel training, planning, public education, and other support programs and services.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the nation and in King County. The delivery of paramedic services in King County has tripled the survival rate of victims of cardiac arrest; the initiation of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation by bystanders or emergency medical technicians has doubled hospital discharge rates.

King County supports Medic One emergency medical services as a regional service that requires a continuing leadership role for the County. The County should continue to exercise its leadership and assume responsibility for assuring the orderly and comprehensive development and provision of Medic One emergency medical services throughout the county.

1 The concern for assuring a county-wide Medic One emergency medical
2 services program is shared by King County cities and fire protection
3 districts who participate in Medic One emergency medical services
4 programs.

5 Medic One emergency medical services provided to county residents
6 should be high quality and should meet uniform service delivery standards.

7 The demand for Medic One emergency medical services has grown over
8 the years, however, such demand has not been accompanied by a stable
9 source of revenues.

10 Medic One emergency medical services are essential and should be
11 afforded a stable and discreet funding base.

12 RCW 84.52.069, as amended, recognizes the needs and concerns described
13 above and provides a funding source for the provision of such emergency
14 medical services.

15 The provision of Medic One emergency medical services on a county-wide
16 basis is a public purpose of King County. In order to assure such a
17 provision of services, it is both necessary and appropriate that an additional
18 regular property tax of \$.29 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation be
19 levied as provided for in this ordinance.

20 Reimbursement and transfer to the city of Seattle of all tax revenues
21 collected pursuant to the levy provided for in this ordinance against taxable
22 property located within the legal boundaries of the city of Seattle will not
23 affect the county's ability to provide Medic One emergency medical
24 services throughout King County.

25 The King County council on September 8, 1997, as a companion to the
26 ordinance authorizing the November 4, 1997, election on emergency
27 medical services, passed Ordinance No.12849, the preamble of which
28 states, "(T)he current, near total reliance on a six-year voter-approved levy
29 puts the [emergency medical services] program's funding in regular
30 jeopardy and connotes that the county considers it an optional
31 program...(T)he county council is committed to researching more secure,
32 permanent funding sources for this important program."

33 The county council supports the proposed three-year, \$.29 per \$1,000
34 assessed value emergency medical services levy and other actions described
35 herein as a bridge to a new financing structure for the emergency medical
36 services system that is more secure and more permanent, and which
37 establishes an immediate departure from "business as usual" in the funding
38 of the emergency medical services system.

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1 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

2 SECTION 1. Approval of cities over 50,000 population. Pursuant to RCW
3 84.52.069, as amended, approval to impose this additional regular property tax will be
4 obtained from the legislative bodies of all cities in the county over 50,000 population,
5 effective not later than December 19, 1997 before it is submitted to the electorate of King
6 County on the special election ballot of February 3, 1998.

7 SECTION 2. City of Seattle reimbursement. It is recognized that the city of
8 Seattle operates and funds a Medic One emergency medical services program that is
9 separate from the county program. During the period of this three-year levy, as set forth
10 herein and as authorized by the qualified electors of King County, all tax revenues collected
11 pursuant to such three-year levy from taxable property located within the legal boundaries
12 of the City of Seattle shall be reimbursed and transferred to the city.

13 SECTION 3. Type of levy. Pursuant to the authorization in RCW 84.52.069, as
14 amended, this levy is a regular property tax levy in addition to the statutory tax rate limit of
15 RCW 84.52.043 and is not subject to the 106% limitation of RCW 85.55.010 for the first
16 levy imposed, but is subject thereto for the remaining two levies.

17 SECTION 4. Levy rate. The rate at which this levy shall be submitted to the voters
18 shall be the rate of \$.29 or less per \$1,000 of assessed valuation each year beginning in
19 1998 for three consecutive years, with collection of the taxes to begin in 1999 for three
20 consecutive years.

21 SECTION 5. Deposit of funds. The share of this collection designated for the city
22 of Seattle under Section 3 of this ordinance shall be deposited into the Seattle Emergency
23 Medical Services Tax Fund and dispersed from this fund. All other funds collected under
24 this levy shall be deposited into the county emergency medical services fund.

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SECTION 6. Ratification by voters. This three-year levy must be approved by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors of King County voting on the proposition, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percentum of the total votes cast in King County at the last preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percentum of the total; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors of King County voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty percentum of the total votes cast in King County in the last preceding general election.

SECTION 7. Call for special election. Pursuant to RCW 29.13.010, it is hereby deemed that an emergency exists requiring the submission to the qualified electors of the county at a special election to be held on February 3, 1998, of a proposition authorizing the previously described three-year levy for Medic One emergency medical services. The manager of the division of records and elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council is hereby authorized and directed to certify that proposition to the manager of the King County division of records and elections in substantially the following form:

King County, Washington

Proposition _____: Regular Property Tax

Levy for Medic One Emergency Medical Services

Shall King County levy a regular property tax each year for three consecutive years, beginning in 1998, to be collected beginning in 1999, at the rate of \$.29 or less per 1,000 of assessed valuation for the continued provision of existing Medic One emergency medical services, all as provided in King County Ordinance _____.

Proposition, yes.....

Proposition, no.....

SECTION 8. The county executive is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an interlocal agreement with the city of Seattle relating to the Medic One program, in substantially the form of Attachment A.

SECTION 9. The manager, King County records and elections division, is hereby authorized and requested to prepare and distribute a local voters' pamphlet, pursuant to K.C.C. Section 1.10.010, for the special election called for in this ordinance, the cost of the pamphlet to be included as part of the cost of the election.

SECTION 10. Severability. Should any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, that determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.


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SECTION 11. The council hereby 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 its existing public institutions.

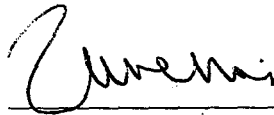
INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 24th day of November, 1997

PASSED by a vote of 12 to 1 on this 15th day of December, 1997.

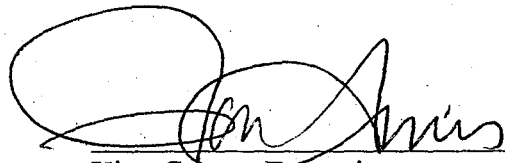
KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 14 day of December, 1997


King County Executive

Attachment: A. Seattle-King County Interlocal Cooperation Agreement

**INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT
FOR ALLOCATION OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES
BETWEEN THE CITY OF SEATTLE
AND
KING COUNTY**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into pursuant to the "Interlocal Cooperation Act" codified as Ch. 39.34 RCW, by and between The City of Seattle ("The City") and King County ("The County"); WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the County desires to place before the qualified electors of King County a ballot proposition authorizing the County to levy an additional regular property tax in the sum of 29 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation each year for three or more consecutive years on all taxable property within King County for the support of emergency medical services pursuant to the powers granted to it in RCW 84.52.069; and

WHEREAS, the City operates and funds an emergency medical services program which is independent from the County's program; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the revenues to be collected pursuant to said levy will be attributable to taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto desire to reimburse and transfer to the City for the support of its emergency medical services program all revenues to be collected pursuant to said levy from the taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that the reimbursement and transfer agreement set forth above will not affect the County's ability to provide emergency medical service throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.52.069 provides that no County levy proposal may be placed on the ballot without approval of the legislative authority of the City;

Now, Therefore, the parties agree as follows:

1. The County shall submit to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held on February 3, 1998, a proposition authorizing the County to levy an additional regular property tax each year for three consecutive years beginning in 1998 for collection beginning in 1999 on taxable property within the County in the sum of twenty-nine (29) cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation pursuant to RCW 84.52.069 for expenses incurred in the provision of emergency medical services. The proposition may, at the County's option, state a longer period of time for which the levy would be authorized.

2. This Agreement shall commence upon its signing by both parties. Upon the approval by the qualified electors of King County of the additional regular property tax levy as set forth in RCW 84.52.069, the King County Council shall by ordinance impose said levy at a rate of twenty-nine (29) cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, or any lesser rate that, when applied to the assessed valuation in Seattle, would yield at least \$13,980,000 in 1999, \$14,400,000 in 2000, and \$14,683,000 in 2001. The County shall levy said voter-approved regular property tax beginning in 1999, and each year thereafter for a total of at least three consecutive years. If the February 1998 ballot measure authorized the levy for more than three consecutive years, then the County shall by ordinance impose said levy for each authorized year at a rate that, when applied to the assessed valuation in Seattle, would yield at least \$15,290,000 in 2002, \$15,749,000 in 2003, and \$16,221,000 in 2004. This Agreement shall terminate on the later of December 31, 2001 or when all property taxes levied by King County under this agreement have been collected and the proper share transferred to the City.

3. The County shall reimburse and transfer to the City all revenues collected pursuant to said levy from taxable property located within the legal boundaries of the City at the levy rate authorized herein. The County shall not by ordinance or by public vote or otherwise impose any constraints on the City's use of the revenues from the levy beyond those imposed by State law or by Paragraph 5 of this Agreement.

4. Reimbursement and transfer of the revenues set forth in Section 3 above, shall be administered by the King County Office of Finance in the manner and at such times as revenues produced pursuant to levies listed in or authorized by RCW 84.52.043.

5. All revenues received pursuant to said levy and this Agreement shall be used only for the provision of emergency medical services as specified in RCW 84.52.069 (3), including but

not limited to reimbursing the City (should the City Council so direct) for its costs of services provided during 1998, and shall be deposited into a special revenue account established by the City for that purpose.

6. In return for the agreement to reimbursement and transfer as set forth in Section 3 above, the City gives its approval by ordinance for the submission to the qualified electors of King County of the County-wide multi-year additional property tax levy proposition for emergency medical services set forth in Section 1 above.

7. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to prohibit the City from levying an annual tax levy pursuant to RCW 84.52.052 or a levy pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, to fund emergency medical services.

8. The parties hereto expressly reserve for themselves the right to amend this Agreement. No amendment hereto will be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of the parties hereto.

KING COUNTY

THE CITY OF SEATTLE

By: [Signature]
Title: County Executive

By: [Signature]
Title: Mayor, City of Seattle

Acting under authority of
Ordinance 12944

Acting under authority of
Ordinance 118832

Approved as to form:

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

[Signature]
Assistant City Attorney

ORDINANCE 118832

1
2 AN ORDINANCE relating to Emergency Medical Services; authorizing execution, pursuant to the
3 Interlocal Cooperation Act, of an agreement with King County regarding the allocation of
4 property tax revenues generated by a King County multi-year, voter-approved tax levy for
5 emergency medical services, and approving such King County tax levy.

6 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

7 WHEREAS, King County desires to place before the qualified electors of King County a ballot
8 proposition authorizing the County to levy an additional regular property tax in the sum of
9 twenty-nine cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation each year, for three or more
10 consecutive years, on all taxable property within King County for the support of emergency
11 medical services, pursuant to the powers granted to it in RCW 84.52.069; and

12 WHEREAS, RCW 84.52.069 does not permit a County-wide excess tax levy for emergency medical
13 services to be placed on the ballot until after the legislative authority of every city having a
14 population in excess of fifty thousand within such county has approved such action; and

15 WHEREAS, King County may place on the ballot a proposition to impose a tax levy at less than the
16 maximum tax rate as allowed by law to provide for emergency medical services, thereby
17 allowing the City to impose its own emergency medical service tax levy, if it so desires; and

18 WHEREAS, King County proposes to carry out its obligation to provide emergency medical services on
19 a County-wide basis by, among other actions, reimbursing and making funds available for
20 expenses incurred in the City's independent emergency medical services program through the
21 allocating and transferring to the City of that portion of the tax receipts generated by such County
22 tax levy that is attributable to taxable property within the City; NOW, THEREFORE,

23 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

24 Section 1. The placing before the qualified electors of King County, pursuant to the powers
granted to King County by RCW 84.52.069, of a ballot proposition on February 3, 1998, authorizing the
County to levy each year for three (3) or more consecutive years commencing in 1998 (for collection
beginning in 1999) an additional regular property tax in the sum of twenty-nine cents (\$0.29) per
thousand dollars of assessed valuation on all taxable property within King County, for the support of
emergency medical services, is hereby approved, conditioned upon the execution by King County, prior

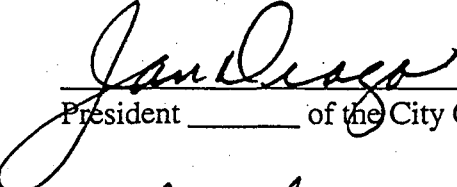
1 to placement of the measure on the ballot, of the interlocal agreement authorized by Section 2, with the
2 minimum levy amounts provided in the attachment to this ordinance.

3 Section 2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute, for and on behalf of The City of Seattle,
4 an agreement with King County substantially in the form of the attached "Interlocal Cooperation
5 Agreement for Allocation of Property Tax Revenues between The City of Seattle and King County."

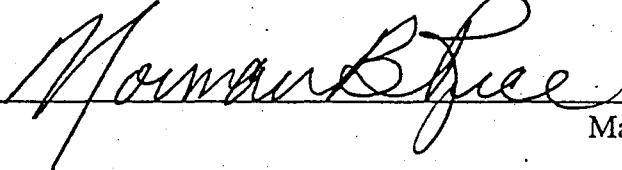
6 Section 3. All acts consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this ordinance,
7 including but not limited to execution of the agreement with King County, are hereby ratified and
8 confirmed.

9 Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its
10 approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after
11 presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

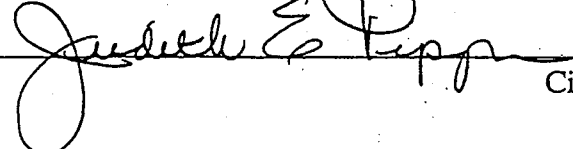
12 Passed by the City Council the 8th day of December 1997, and signed by me in open
13 session in authentication of its passage this 8th day of December, 1997.

14
15 
16 President _____ of the City Council

17 Approved by me this 12 day of December, 1997.

18 
19 Mayor

20 Filed by me this 12 day of December, 1997.

21 
22 City Clerk

23 (Seal)

24