



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 25, 2000

Ordinance 13906

VETOED

Proposed No. 2000-0291.1

Sponsors Vance, von Reichbauer, Pullen,
McKenna and Irons

1 AN ORDINANCE related to jail operations requiring that
2 the department of adult and juvenile detention maintain
3 intake, transfer, and release ("booking") services at the King
4 County correctional facility and the regional justice center
5 twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week; and adding
6 a new section to K.C.C. Title 2.

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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SECTION 1. There is hereby added to K.C.C. Title 2 a new section to read as

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follows:

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The department of adult and juvenile detention is responsible for the incarceration

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of criminal offenders in King County, including the acceptance and "booking," which is

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the intake, transfer and release, of those individuals suspected of committing a crime.

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The department shall accept and book prisoners, as required by state law or under

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agreements with other governmental agencies, at its two facilities, the King County

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correctional facility in Seattle and the regional justice center in Kent, twenty-four hours

Ordinance 13906

18 per day, three hundred sixty-five days per year. There shall be no restriction upon the
19 hours or location that law enforcement officers may book prisoners.

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Ordinance 13906 was introduced on 5/8/00 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/24/00, by the following vote:

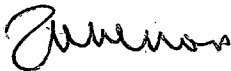
Yes: 7 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Miller, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Pullen, Ms. Hague, Mr. Vance and Mr. Irons
No: 6 - Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels and Mr. Gossett
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

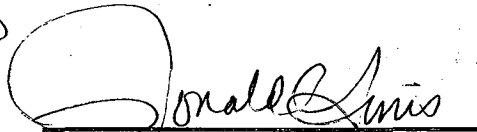
ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

~~APPROVED~~ this 2 day of August, 2000.

Vetoed



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None



Metropolitan King County Council

MEMORANDUM

August 2, 2000

TO: Councilmembers

FM: Anne Noris

RE: Veto Message for Ordinance 13906, relating to jail operations

Attached are copies of Ordinance 13906, relating to operations of the Regional Justice Center and of the veto message sent by the Executive on August 2, 2000. Section 230.20 of the Charter provides: "Within thirty days after an ordinance has been vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the county council may override the veto or partial veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of nine affirmative votes."



King County Executive
RON SIMS

RECEIVED
2000 AUG -2 AM 8:44
CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

August 2, 2000

The Honorable Pete von Reichbauer
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Chair von Reichbauer:

I am vetoing Ordinance 13906, which attempts to usurp the Executive's authority to operate the government within the budget, by mandating specific operations without providing corresponding funding. Further, by specifying jail booking operations, the Council attempts to set a precedent by establishing operating requirements by ordinance, thereby making convenience of booking for police a higher priority than police response, officer safety and other justice services.

The ordinance seeks to require that the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention allow police to book prisoners without limitation 24-hours per day at both the King County Correctional Facility in Seattle or the Regional Justice Center in Kent. This is not a service that the county is required to provide by statute or by contract.

King County is the only county in Western Washington that has not restricted jail bookings and does not release inmates before their sentences are complete. While maintenance of two booking operations may be desirable for police, one centralized booking facility is the norm for major metropolitan counties in the Western United States.

Adoption of the ordinance further signals that criminal justice agencies will not be held accountable for managing their budgets and finding efficiencies in their operations. We all want a strong, high-quality criminal justice system. As Executive and as a Councilmember my support for criminal justice has been consistent. However, quality of justice is not measured by how many resources are applied to the task, but by how effectively those resources are used.

For our criminal justice system to function effectively, each role must be balanced and strong. This includes law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, detention and public defense. In an environment of limited resources, criminal justice agencies must be held accountable for managing their budgets and finding efficiencies in their operations.

KING COUNTY COURTHOUSE 516 THIRD AVENUE, ROOM 400 SEATTLE, WA 98104-3271
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This year, and for the foreseeable future, shrinking budgets make it critical that we make wise and financially prudent decisions that will serve our citizens well in the long term.

The Adult and Juvenile Detention Director Designee, Steve Thompson, ordered the closure of booking services for the graveyard shift at the Regional Justice Center beginning May 14. He ordered the change, with my support, to comply with the Council's 2000 adopted budget. It was determined that 23 bookings per night at the Regional Justice Center did not justify the \$500,000 a year cost, when balanced against the alternatives. The decision to require police agencies to book at the Seattle jail during the late night and early morning hours was clearly the best money-saving alternative the department had available that had the least impact on the criminal justice system.

To ensure that police are on patrol as much as possible, Director Thompson has worked with labor, the Sheriff and with city police agencies to minimize the impact of the third shift booking. He has an agreement with the Kent City Jail to accept the Sheriff's bookings for the unincorporated area and its contract cities of Maple Valley, Newcastle and Covington, as well as for county warrant bookings by other police agencies. He has also given South County police agencies priority access for booking at the downtown Seattle jail.

Since we made the agreement with the City of Kent, an average of about four inmates per night have been booked in that city's jail by the Sheriff on direct charges or by other agencies on county warrants – even though up to 14 beds per night are available. Director Thompson, with the Kent and other South County, is developing a protocol for opening this booking option to other police agencies.

In these times of tight financial restrictions, it is imperative to find cuts in all areas if we want to continue to provide a full range of law, safety, justice and other departments.

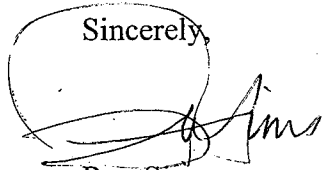
Criminal justice accounts for more than 66 percent of the county's Current Expense budget. In the past three years, criminal justice costs have grown by 29 percent, while general government has grown less than 4 percent and human services have grown 7 percent, a rate lower than inflation.

I agree that criminal justice services are a high priority of county government. But funding of criminal justice functions cannot be at the cost of eliminating other essential services the citizens of King County need.

The Honorable Pete von Reichbauer
August 2, 2000
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I am elected to manage the finances and provide a balance of services for the entire county. There are no easy choices in that task. Shutting down third shift booking at the Regional Justice Center is a responsible one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sims", is written over a circular stamp or mark.

Ron Sims
King County Executive

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: John Chelminiak, Chief of Staff
Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Steve Thompson, Director-Designee, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

