



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**December 8, 2008**

**Ordinance 16322**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0633.1

**Sponsors** Patterson, Constantine, Phillips,  
Hague, Ferguson and Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle-King County  
2 department of public health; and amending Ordinance  
3 12529, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.16.080.  
4

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

6 SECTION 1. Ordinance 1229, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.16.080 are  
7 each hereby amended to read as follows:

8 A. Since 1951, the city of Seattle and the county have jointly financed and  
9 operated a city-county health department. As of January 1, 1981, the city of Seattle and  
10 the county established a combined city-county health department known as the Seattle-  
11 King County department of public health under chapters 70.05 and 70.08 RCW and  
12 certain city ordinances and county resolutions and ordinances. The director of the  
13 department shall be jointly appointed by the mayor of the city and the county executive,  
14 subject to confirmation by the city and county councils, and may be removed by the  
15 county executive, after consultation with the mayor, upon filing a statement of the  
16 reasons therefor with the city and county councils as authorized by RCW 70.08.040. The  
17 director shall be responsible for the management of the department.

18           B. As provided in the agreement between King County and the city of Seattle  
19           entitled "1996 Agreement Regarding the Seattle-King County Department of Public  
20           Health" approved by the county council by Motion 9999, the department shall be  
21           responsible for providing a functionally integrated set of services and programs that are  
22           fully responsive to urban, suburban city and unincorporated communities. The  
23           department shall achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities throughout  
24           King County by providing public health services that promote health and prevent disease,  
25           including, but not limited to: providing needed or mandated prevention or intervention  
26           services to address individual and community health concerns; assessing and monitoring  
27           the health status of communities; preventing disease, injury, disability and premature  
28           death; promoting healthy living conditions and healthy behaviors; and controlling and  
29           reducing the exposure of individuals and communities to environmental or personal  
30           hazards. The department shall assess the health of King County residents and  
31           communities, facilitate planning to develop responses to issues which affect the public's  
32           health and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and initiatives which address these  
33           issues. The department shall include an emergency medical services division, an  
34           environmental health division, a prevention division, a community oriented primary care  
35           division, an alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention division, an administrative  
36           services division and regional services areas. The department shall manage children and  
37           family programs and shall provide administrative support to the children and family  
38           commission.

39 C. To fulfill the purpose of reducing death and disability from accidents, acute  
40 illness, injuries and other medical emergencies, the duties of the emergency medical  
41 services division shall include the following:

42 1. Track and analyze service and program needs of the emergency medical  
43 services system in the county, and plan and implement emergency medical programs,  
44 services and delivery systems based on uniform data and standard emergency medical  
45 incident reporting;

46 2. Set standards for emergency medical services training and implement  
47 emergency medical service personnel training programs, including, but not limited to,  
48 public education, communication and response capabilities and transportation of the sick  
49 and injured;

50 3. Coordinate all aspects of emergency medical services in the county with  
51 local, state and federal governments and other counties, municipalities and special  
52 districts for the purpose of improving the quality and quantity of emergency medical  
53 services and disaster response in King County; and

54 4. Analyze and coordinate the disaster response capabilities of the department.

55 D. The duties of the environmental health division shall include the following:

56 1. Inspect and monitor regulated facilities to ensure compliance with public  
57 health codes, rules and regulations;

58 2. Investigate complaints or special programs, such as disease outbreaks,  
59 sewage spills or toxic spills, identified by the public, the media or public officials;

60 3. Advise or educate the public on health risks associated with environmental  
61 hazards; ((and))

62           4. Enforce public health codes, rules and regulations within the jurisdictions of  
63 the division;

64           5. Provide veterinary medical care for animals in the custody of King County's  
65 animal care and control authority; and

66           6. Fulfill zoonotic disease control responsibilities in accordance with WAC 246-  
67 100-191 and 246-101-405.

68           E. The duties of the prevention division shall include the following:

69           1. Reduce the public's exposure to communicable diseases through surveillance  
70 and outbreak investigation;

71           2. Lower the occurrence of chronic diseases, injury and violence in the  
72 community through strategies which reduce the frequency of risk factors for these  
73 conditions;

74           3. Promote and provide public education and research in the development of  
75 prevention models;

76           4. Perform specific public health services including vital statistics and  
77 laboratory functions; and

78           5. Perform medical examiner and statutory coroner duties, except for the  
79 holding of inquests, which function is vested in the county executive.

80           F. The community oriented primary care division shall focus the department's  
81 clinical leadership, health services and expertise and strengthens quality systems and  
82 effective care partnerships with government, business and community-based  
83 organizations. To maintain the community health care system, the duties of the division  
84 shall include the following:

85           1. Develop benchmarks of service quality, clinical guidelines and standards of  
86 excellence for the health department;

87           2. Provide leadership and coordination with health care providers, government  
88 agencies, businesses and community groups in the provision of primary health services to  
89 at-risk populations in King County;

90           3. Develop, implement and monitor a systematic, comprehensive system of  
91 health service delivery in King County that improves health outcomes by connecting  
92 community-based intervention and strategies with the health care of individuals;

93           4. Develop responsive service delivery and access mechanisms to meet the  
94 changing health care needs of at-risk populations in King County; and

95           5. Provide basic primary care services to detainees of the King County adult  
96 detention facilities.

97           G. The duties of the alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention division  
98 shall include the following:

99           1. Administer, staff and provide technical expertise to department programs  
100 related to the prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse;

101           2. Provide prevention services on alcoholism and other drug addictions under  
102 federal and state laws and King County ordinances;

103           3. Link and integrate alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse interventions with  
104 public health functions and activities; and

105           4. Provide for the delivery of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse services in  
106 correctional facilities.

107           H. The duties of the administrative services division shall include the following:

- 108 1. Provide administrative and technical support to the department;
- 109 2. Oversee the administrative systems and activities of the department; and
- 110 3. Provide general support within the department as authorized elsewhere in this
- 111 chapter.
- 112 I. In addition to divisions, the department shall be organized into regional service
- 113 areas that will directly provide department activities, services and programs within
- 114 identified geographic boundaries in the county.

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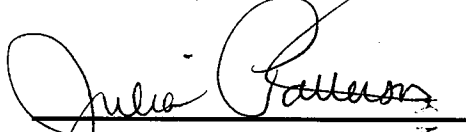
Ordinance 16322 was introduced on 11/24/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/8/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett and Ms. Hague

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Mr. Phillips

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 23 day of December, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Sims, County Executive

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Attachments None