



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 27, 2010**

**Ordinance 16900**

**Proposed No. 2009-0396.2**

**Sponsors Lambert and Ferguson**

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing to amend Section 890 of the  
2 King County Charter and to add a new Section 897 of the  
3 King County Charter, to designate the county sheriff as the  
4 county's bargaining agent on all department of public safety  
5 issues except for compensation and benefits; submitting the  
6 same to the voters of the county for their ratification or  
7 rejection at the November 2010 general election; and  
8 requiring the executive and the sheriff to submit a joint  
9 proposal to the council for legislation to facilitate  
10 implementation of the charter amendment if it is approved  
11 by the voters.

12 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

13 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

14 A. Section 890 of the King County Charter specifies the county executive as the  
15 bargaining agent of the county. The county executive has authority over collective  
16 bargaining for department of public safety and other departments on all issues, including  
17 contract terms related to wages, hours, benefits and working conditions.

18 B. The county sheriff, a separately elected official, currently has input, but no  
19 authority to bargain contract provisions with represented employees of the department of  
20 public safety.

21 SECTION 2. There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for  
22 their approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this  
23 county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an  
24 amendment to Section 890 of the King County Charter and the addition of a new Section  
25 897 to the King County Charter, as set forth herein:

26 **Section 890. Employee Representation.**

27 The county council may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the  
28 county with county employees covered by the personnel system. If an ordinance providing for  
29 collective bargaining is enacted, it shall not be subject to the veto power of the county executive;  
30 and, except with respect to bargaining by the county with employees of the department of public  
31 safety pursuant to Section 897 of this charter, it shall designate the county executive as the  
32 bargaining agent of the county. Any agreement reached as a result of negotiations by the county  
33 bargaining agent with county employees shall not have the force of law unless enacted by  
34 ordinance.

35 **Section 897. Department of Public Safety Employee Collective Bargaining.**

36 The county council may enact an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the  
37 county with employees of the department of public safety. The county executive shall not have  
38 veto power over this ordinance. If such an ordinance is enacted, it shall designate the county  
39 sheriff as the bargaining agent of the county on all department of public safety matters except for  
40 compensation and benefits, which shall be negotiated by the county executive as provided in  
41 Section 890 of this charter. Any agreement reached as a result of negotiations by the county

42 sheriff or the county executive with employees of the department of public safety shall not have  
43 the force of law unless enacted by ordinance.

44 SECTION 3. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the manager  
45 of the elections division, in substantially the following form, with such additions,  
46 deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

47 Shall the King County Charter be amended to allow the King County  
48 Sheriff to serve as the county's collective bargaining agent for all  
49 department of public safety issues except for compensation and benefits,  
50 which would continue to be bargained by the county executive?

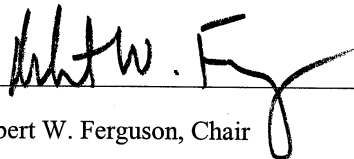
51 SECTION 4. Within ninety days after certification that the charter amendment in  
52 section 2 of this ordinance has been approved by the voters, the county executive and the  
53 county sheriff shall submit to the county council a joint proposal for legislation  
54 establishing a process of consultation and collaboration between the executive and the  
55 sheriff in advance of collective bargaining negotiations concerning employees of the  
56 department of public safety. The process shall be designed to promote successful  
57 implementation of the charter amendment by identifying and resolving any disagreements  
58 between the county executive and the county sheriff concerning the division of  
59 bargaining authority, the positions to be taken on issues expected to arise during  
60 collective bargaining or other matters that have the potential to interfere with collective  
61 bargaining. The process shall provide that the county executive and the county sheriff  
62 shall promptly submit a confidential, detailed, written report to the chair of the county  
63 council and the chair of the council's labor policy committee describing any such  
64 disagreement that the executive and the sheriff are unable to resolve. The process shall

65 further provide that neither the county executive nor the county sheriff shall propose or  
66 agree to the inclusion of language in any collective bargaining agreement concerning  
67 employees of the department of public safety without conferring with one another, except  
68 in regards to compensation and benefits.  
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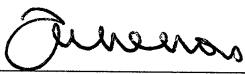
Ordinance 16900 was introduced on 6/29/2009 and passed as amended by the  
Metropolitan King County Council on 7/26/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr.  
Ferguson and Mr. Dunn  
No: 3 - Ms. Drago, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Gossett  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None