



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

December 17, 2013

Ordinance 17720

Proposed No. 2013-0434.2

Sponsors Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE establishing a pilot program that
2 encourages King County employees to be innovative and
3 for the county to commercialize creative ideas, inventions,
4 tools and software programs generated by its employees.

5 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 6 1. King County has approximately fourteen thousand employees with a
7 wide range of talents and skills.
- 8 2. In the course of conducting their work of providing services to the
9 public, county employees occasionally develop new and unique products
10 that not only allow for greater productivity, but have the potential to be
11 patented, licensed and commercialized.
- 12 3. Examples of unique and potentially commercial products include
13 software programs and tools.
- 14 4. It is in the public interest for county employees to find creative ways to
15 improve productivity and for the county and its employees to experience
16 benefits from commercializing ideas and products generated by
17 employees.

18 5. Although some departments have explored ways to commercialize
19 ideas, there is no systematic program or process for employees to promote
20 an innovative idea in the workplace.

21 6. Because King County has not undertaken a project of this type to any
22 significant degree in the past, it is appropriate to create a pilot program to
23 commercialize creative ideas with an evaluation as to its effectiveness
24 after some time.

25 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

26 SECTION 1. The executive shall establish a pilot program to encourage
27 innovation. The purpose of the program is to encourage county employees to be creative
28 and bring innovative ideas to their jobs in order to commercialize these ideas for the
29 benefit of the county, employees and the public.

30 SECTION 2. For purposes of this ordinance, "innovative ideas" includes any
31 ideas developed by county employees related to or in the course of their county job that
32 could be commercially valuable through a patent, copyright, license or other means of
33 commercialization. "Innovative ideas" may include, but is not limited to, ideas, software
34 programs, tools and inventions. "Innovative ideas" does not, however, include processes
35 such as, but not limited to, workflow efficiencies.

36 SECTION 3. The executive shall establish an innovation team for the pilot
37 program, to be led by the director of the office of performance, strategy and budget. The
38 director shall determine the size of the team; however, it shall include the chief
39 information officer or the chief information officer's designee and one member from the

40 legislative branch. Departments that have people with expertise relevant to an innovative
41 product may also be brought into the team on an ad hoc basis.

42 SECTION 4. The innovation team shall:

43 A. Develop a charter for the innovation team describing its purpose and operating
44 procedures; and

45 B. In consultation with the prosecuting attorney's office and outside
46 organizations, consider the intellectual property policies, proposed intellectual property
47 legal agreements, and any other elements that may be needed to facilitate the functioning
48 of the innovation team, and develop a process for how the team shall obtain those
49 elements.

50 SECTION 5. The innovation team should develop a process for identifying and
51 encouraging county employees to develop innovative ideas, software programs, tools and
52 inventions that could be commercially valuable through a patent, copyright, license or
53 other means of commercialization.

54 SECTION 6. The innovation team may consult with individuals and
55 organizations such as the Cascadia Med Tech Association and the Center for
56 Commercialization at the University of Washington to learn methods for managing and
57 sharing the benefits of intellectual property. The innovation team may also consult with
58 venture capital firms to identify intellectual property agreements as well as potential
59 business models or approaches to commercialization.

60 SECTION 7. The innovation team may make use of the county's existing
61 partnership with the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County to
62 advance the implementation of this pilot program. The Economic Development Council

63 of Seattle and King County facilitated the establishment of the Cascadia Med Tech
64 Center in the city of Federal Way to help local businesses commercialize ideas for
65 medical devices, creating an industry cluster. The Economic Development Council of
66 Seattle and King County has expertise that is available to King County that could be
67 helpful in launching the county's pilot innovation program.

68 SECTION 8. The innovation team shall operate using existing staff and
69 resources. If the executive determines that moneys are necessary to commercialize a
70 product or idea, the executive may submit an appropriation ordinance for council
71 consideration.

72 SECTION 9. In order to fully implement the pilot program the executive shall
73 transmit to the council one or more ordinances. The ordinances shall propose:

- 74 A. Policies to guide the pilot program;
- 75 B. A methodology for sharing net revenues with employees that generate
76 commercially viable ideas or innovations if where and when appropriate; and
- 77 C. Any changes to the King County Code that are necessary to implement the
78 pilot program.

79 SECTION 10. By September 1, 2015, the executive shall transmit to council a
80 progress report on the accomplishments of the innovation team. By six months before
81 the expiration date of this ordinance, the executive shall submit a final report to the
82 council that evaluates the pilot innovation program and include the executive's
83 recommendation as to whether or not the pilot program should be extended. The reports
84 required in this section shall be filed with the clerk of the council in the form of one paper

85 original and an electronic copy, which shall be distributed by the clerk of the council to
86 all councilmembers.

87 SECTION 11. This ordinance expires three years after the effective date of this
88 ordinance.

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Ordinance 17720 was introduced on 9/30/2013 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/16/2013, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson,
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Dembowski
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:


Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

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APPROVED this 26th day of December, 2013.


Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None