## COUNCIL BILL No. 105491

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Municipal Court; adding a new chapter to Title 3 of the Seattle Municipal Code; providing for the basic judicial structure of the Seattle Municipal Court; and ratifying acts of the Seattle City Council pursuant to Ordinances 101811, 108666 and 110900.

12/2/87

COMPTROLLER FILE No			
Introduced: NOV 1 6 1987	City Atlorney		
Referred: NOV 1 6 1987	To: Public Safely		
Referred:	io: (/ )		
Referred:	To:		
Reported: DEC 14 1987	Second Reading: DEC 14 1987		
Third Reading: DEC 14 1587	Signed: DES 14 1937		
Presented to Mayor: BEC 15 1987	Approved: <b>DEC</b> 23 1987		
Returned to City Clerk:	Published:		
Vetoed by Mayor:	Veto Published:		
Passed over Veto:	Veto Sustained:		

Law Department
The City of Seattle-Legislative

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Your Committe on	Poblic	Safety	
to which was referred to report that we have co	the within Co	uncil Bill No	D(e 49/ fully recomme
report that we have co	Holder 2d 470		
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(UNIVERSAL 3-21943)

# Law Department

# The City of Seattle--Legislative Department

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	REPORT OF COMMITTEE	end A	dopted
Honorable President:  Your Committe on  to which was referred the within C report that we have considered the	Souncil Bill No. 10(491 e same and respectfully recommend	d that the same:	
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Mor	MMMS/100 Committee Chair		

(UNIVERSAL 3-2194)

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Municipal Court; adding a new chapter to Title 3 of the Seattle Municipal Code; providing for the basic judicial structure of the Seattle Municipal Court; and ratifying acts of the Seattle City Council pursuant to Ordinances 101811, 108666 and 110900.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. There is added to Seattle Municipal Code a new Chapter 3.33, as follows:

Section 3.33.010 Purpose. This chapter sets forth the structure and authority of Seattle Municipal Court and consolidates authorization previously given in Ordinances 101811, 108666 and 110900, which authority is hereby further ratified and confirmed. Consistent with RCW Chapter 35.20 and other applicable law, the purpose of the Court is to try violations of City ordinances and all other actions brought to enforce or recover license penalties or forfeitures declared or given by any such ordinances and perform such other duties as may be authorized by law.

Section 3.33.020. <u>Jurisdiction</u>; <u>Authority</u>. The Municipal Court has exclusive original jurisdiction to try violations of all City ordinances and all other actions brought to enforce or recover license penalties or forfeitures declared or given by any such ordinances. It is empowered to forfeit cash bail or bail bonds and issue execution thereon, to hear and determine all causes, civil or criminal, arising under such ordinances, and to pronounce judgment in accordance therewith: Provided, That for a violation of the criminal provisions of an ordinance no greater punishment shall be imposed than is

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authorized by state law. All civil and criminal proceedings in municipal court, and judgments rendered therein, shall be subject to review in the superior court by writ of review or on appeal. Costs in civil and criminal cases may be taxed as provided by law.

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Section 3.33.030. Trial by jury--Jurors' fees. civil cases and criminal cases where jurisdiction is concurrent with district courts as provided in RCW 35.20.250, within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Court, the plaintiff or defendant may demand a jury, which shall consist of six citizens of the state who shall be impaneled and sworn as in cases before district courts, or the trial may be by a judge of the Municipal Court: Provided, That no jury trial may be held on a proceeding involving a traffic infraction or violation. A defendant in a civil case requesting a jury shall pay to the court a fee which shall be the same as that for a jury in justice court. Where there is more than one defendant in an action and one or more of them requests a jury, only one jury fee shall be collected by the Court. Each juror may receive up to twenty-five dollars but in no case less than ten dollars for each day in attenuance upon the Municipal Court and, in addition thereto, shall receive mileage at the rate determined under RCW 43.03.060: Provided, That the compensation paid jurors shall be determined by the City's legislative authority and shall be uniformly applied.

Section 3.33.040. Structure. The Municipal Court shall consist of six (6) judicial departments, as follows:

Departments 1-3 established pursuant to RCW 35.20.100; and

Departments 4-6 heretofore established pursuant to RCW 35.20.100 by Ordinances 101811, 108666 and 110900.

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The departments shall be established in such places as may be provided from time to time by the City's legislative authority and each department shall be presided over by a municipal judge. The judges shall select, by majority vote, one of their number to act as presiding judge of the Municipal Court for a term of one year, and he or she shall be responsible for administration of the Court and assignment of calendars to all departments. A change of venue from one department of the Municipal Court to another department shall be allowed in accordance with the provisions of RCW 3.66.090 in all civil and criminal proceedings. Municipal judges shall be elected as provided by law.

Section 3.33.050. <u>Sessions</u>. The Municipal Court shall be always open except on non-judicial days. It shall hold regular and special sessions at such times as may be prescribed by the judges thereof.

Section 3.33.060. Court Administrator. There shall be a court administrator of the Municipal Court appointed by the judges of the Municipal Court, subject to confirmation by a majority of the City Council, and removable by the judges of the Municipal Court subject to like confirmation. Before entering upon the duties of his or her office, the court administrator shall take and subscribe an oath the same as required for other officers of the City, and shall execute a penal bond in such sum and with such sureties as the City Council may direct and subject to their approval, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties, and that he

or she will pay over to the City Treasurer all moneys belonging to the City which shall come into his or her hands as such court administrator. The court administrator shall be paid such compensation as the City Council may provide from time to time. The court administrator shall act under the supervision and control of the presiding judge of the Municipal Court and shall supervise the functions of the chief clerk and director of the traffic violations bureau, or successor agency, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the presiding judge of the Municipal Court.

Section 3.33.070. <u>Seal of Court</u>. The Municipal Court shall have a seal which shall be the vignette of George Washington, with the words "Seal of The Municipal Court of The City of Seattle, State of Washington," surrounding the vignette.

Section 3.33.080. Process. All process from the Municipal Court shall issue under the seal thereof and shall run throughout the state.

Section 3.33.090. Director of Traffic Violations/Director of Information and Revenue. There shall be a director of the traffic violations bureau/director of information and revenue. The director shall be appointed by the judges of the Municipal Court subject to civil service laws and rules. The director shall act under the supervision of the court administrator of the Municipal Court and shall be responsible for the supervision of the traffic violations bureau. Before entering upon the duties of his or her office, the director shall take and subscribe an oath the same as required for other officers of the City and shall execute a penal bond in such sum and

with such sureties as City's legislative authority may direct and, subject to their approval, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties, and that he or she will faithfully account to and pay over to the City Treasurer all moneys belonging to the City which shall come into his or her hands as such director. The director shall be paid such compensation as may be provided in the salary schedule.

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Section 3.33.100. <u>Judges' meetings; rules of court.</u> It shall be the duty of the judges of Municipal Court to meet together at least once each month, except during the months of July and August, at such hour and place as they may designate, and at such other times as they may desire, for the consideration of such matters pertaining to the administration of justice in said Court as may be brought before them. At these meetings they shall receive and investigate, or cause to be investigated, all complaints presented to them pertaining to the Court and the employees thereof, and shall take such action as they may deem necessary or proper with respect thereto. They shall have power and it shall be their duty to adopt, or cause to be adopted, rules and regulations for the proper administration of justice in the Municipal Court.

Section 3.33.110. Qualifications of judges. No person shall be eligible for the office of judge of the Municipal Court unless he or she shall have been admitted to practice law before the courts of record of the state and is a qualified elector of the City. No judge of said Court during his or her term of office shall engage either directly or indirectly in the practice of law.

Section 3.33.120. <u>Judges' oaths; bonds</u>. Every judge of the Municipal Court, before he or she enters upon the duties of his or her office, shall take and subscribe the following

oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Washington, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of judge of the Municipal Court of The City of Seattle coording to the best of my ability; and I do further certify that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of an organization that advocates, the overthrow of the government of the United States by force or violence." The oath shall be filed in the office of the county auditor. He or she shall also give such bonds to the state and City for the faithful performance of his or her duties as may be by law or ordinance directed.

Section 3.33.130. Additional judges. Whenever the number of departments of the Municipal Court is increased by City ordinance, the Mayor shall appoint a qualified person as provided in RCW 35.20.170 and SMC 3.33.110 to act as municipal judge until the next general election. He or she shall be paid salaries in accordance with the provisions of RCW Chapter 35.20 and applicable City ordinances and provided with the necessary court, office space and personnel as authorized.

Section 3.33. Judges pro tempore. The Mayor shall, from attorneys reading in the City and qualified to hold the position of judge of the Municipal Court as provided in RCW 35.20.170 and SMC 3.33.110, appoint judges pro tempore who shall act in the absence of the regular judges of the court or in addition to the regular judges when the administration of justice and the accomplishment of the work of the court make it necessary. The judges of the Municipal Court shall promulgate rules establishing general standards for the use of judges pro tempore. A copy of the rules shall be filed with

the legislative authority of the City at the time of budget consideration. Such appointments shall be made from a list of attorneys furnished by the judges of the Municipal Court, which list shall contain not less than five (5) names in addition to the number of judges pro tempore requested. Appointment of judges pro tempore shall be for the term of office of the regular judges unless sooner removed in the same manner as they were appointed. While acting as judge of the Court, judges pro tempore shall have all of the powers of the regular judges. Before entering upon his or her duties, each judge pro tempore shall take, subscribe and file an oath as is taken by a municipal judge. Judges pro tempore shall not practice before the Municipal Court during their term of office as judges pro tempore. Municipal judges pro tempore shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by ordinance of the City.

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Section 3.33.150. Judicial officers. The judges of the Municipal Court may employ judicial officers to assist in the administration of justice and the accomplishment of the work of the court as said work may be assigned to it by statute or ordinance. The duties and responsibilities of such officers shall be judicial in nature and shall be fixed by court rule as adopted by the Municipal Court judges or fixed by ordinance. The judicial officers may be authorized to hear and determnine cases involving the commission of traffic infractions and violations as provided in RCW Chapter 46.63 and SMC Chapter 11. The Mayor may appoint the judicial officers as judges pro tempore pursuant to RCW 35.20.200 and SMC 3.133.130: Provided, That the judicial officer need not be a resident of the City.

Section 3.33.160. Clerks of the court. There shall be a chief clerk of the Municipal Court appointed by the judges of the Municipal Court subject to such civil service laws and rules. Pefore he or she enters upon the duties of his or her office the chief clerk shall take and subscribe an oath the same as required for other officers of the City, and shall execute a penal bond in such sum and with such sureties as legislative authority of the City may direct and, subject to their approval, conditioned that he will faithfully account to and pay over to the City Treasurer all moneys coming into his or her hands as the clerk, and that he or she will faithfully perform the duties of the office to the best of his or her knowledge and ability. Upon the recommendation of the judges of the Municipal Court, the legislative authority of the City may provide for the appointment of such assistant clerks of the Municipal Court as the legislative authority deems necessary, with such compensation as the legislative authority may provide by ordinance and the assistant clerks shall be subject to civil service laws and rules; Provided, That the judges of the Municipal Court shall appoint such clerks as the board of county commissioners may determine to handle cases involving violations of state law, wherein the court has concurrent jurisdiction with justices of the peace and the superior court. All clerks of the court shall have power to administer oaths, swear and acknowledge signatures of those persons filing complaints with the court, take testimony in any action, suit or proceeding in the court relating to the City or county for which they are appointed, and may certify any records and documents of the court pertaining thereto.

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They shall give bond for the faithful performance of their duties as required by law.

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Section 3,33,170. Powers and duties of chief clerk. chief clerk, under the supervision and direction of the court administrator of the Municipal Court, shall have the custody and care of the books, papers and records of said court; he or she shall be present or ensure that a deputy is present during the session of the Court, and shall have the power to swear all witnesses and jurors, and administer oaths and affidavits, and take acknowledgements. He or she shall keep the records of the Court, and shall issue all process under his or her hand and the seal of said Court, and shall do and perform all things and have the same powers pertaining to his or her office as the clerks of the superior courts have in their office. He or she shall receive all fines, penalties and fees of every kind, and keep a full, accurate and detailed account of the same; and shall on each day pay into the City Treasury all moneys received for the City during the day previous, with a detailed account of the same, and taking the City Treasurer's receipt therefor.

Section 3.33.180. Director of probation services;

probation officers; bailiffs. The judges of the Municipal

Court shall appoint a director of probation services who shall

under the supervision of the presiding judge of the Municipal

Court supervise the probation officers of the Municipal Court.

The judges of the Municipal Court shall also appoint a bailiff

for the court, together with such number of probation officers

and additional bailiffs as may be authorized by ordinance.

The director of probation services, probation officers, and

bailiff or bailiffs shall be paid as provided by ordinance.

#### Section 3.33.190. Warrant servers; service of process.

- (1) The position of warrant server is hereby established in Municipal Court. The number and qualifications of warrant servers shall be fixed by ordinance, and their compensation shall be paid as provided by ordinance.
- (2) Warrant servers shall be vested only with the special authority to make arrests authorized by the warrants which they have been directed to serve by Municipal Court.
- (3) All criminal and civil process issuing out of Municipal Court shall be directed to the Chief of Police, to the sheriff of King County and/or the warrant servers of the Court and be by them executed according to law in any county of this state.
- (4) No process of Municipal Court shall be executed.

  outside the corporate limits of the City served by the court

  unless the person authorized by said process shall first

  contact the applicable law enforcement agency in the

  jurisdiction of which the process is to be served.
- (5) Upon a defendant being arrested in another city or county the cost of arresting or serving process thereon shall be borne by Municipal Court, including the cost of returning the defendant from any county of the state to the City.
- (6) Warrant servers shall not be entitled to death, disability or retirement benefits pursuant to RCW Chapter 41.26 on the basis of service as a warrant server as described in this section.

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Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect approval, if approved by the Mayor; otherwise it provisions of the city charter.	thall take effe	ct at the time	it shall becom	e a law under the
Passed by the City Council the 19th	day of	120	ember.	, 1957,
and signed by me in open session in authentica				day of
and signed by me in open session in authentic				
	C-/P	resident	of th	City Council.
Approved by me this 23 <sup>[C]</sup> day of	7	ce inter	s O	Mayor.
Filed by me this 23th day of	Decen	iben	, 198.7	·
	At	test. V	Ward J. Compiroller	Brooks and City Clerk.
(SEAL)			_	- h)
Published	BŞ	I he	nasa 1	Deputy Clerk.



Date:

December 9, 1987

To:

Full Council

From:

Norm Rice, Chair
Public Safety Committee

C.B. 106401

Subject:

C.B. 105491

This ordinance officially institutionalizes that there are six departments within Seattle Municipal Court. The creation of this ordinance was prompted by three court cases filed against the City of Seattle charging that departments 4, 5, and 6 do not officially exist.

Departments 1, 2, and 3 are officially created by State law, but each municipality must create additional departments as each sees fit. The City has argued in the cases filed that departments 4, 5, and 6 were officially created by budget appropriation. Superior Court agreed, but two of the three cases have been appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Although the courts have ratified that departments 4, 5, and 6 exist, C.B. 106491 would moot one of the arguments in the cases presently before the State Supreme Court. This ordinance would also preclude any new cases from being filed arguing the existence of these three departments.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously passed this proposed ordinance 2-0.

NR:sj

#### THE CITY OF SEATTLE

LAW DEPARTMENT

MUNICIPAL BUILDING . SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98/04

AREA CODE 206 TELEPHONE 684-8200

DOUGLAS N JEWETT, CITY ATTORNEY

November 10, 1987

The Honorable Sam Smith President, Seattle City Council

Dear Mr. Smith:

Enclosed for your consideration is a proposal for legislation incorporating the basic judicial structure of the Seattle Municipal Court as a new chapter of the Seattle Municipal Code.

In addition, approval of the legislation would ratify the Council's previous acts "creating" Seattle Municipal Court Departments 4, 5 and 6 via appropriation in the respective budget ordinance. We expect approval of this legislation will resolve the ongoing legal challenge to the current method of creating departments.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS N. JEWETT

City Attorney

By ISABEL R. SAFORA Assistant City Attorney

IRS:bjw encl.

ORDINANCE 113:6.

AN CRDINANCE relating to the Seattle Municipal Court, adding a new chapter to Title 3 of the Seat'te Municipal Code, providing for the basic judicial structure of the Seattle Municipal Court; and ratifying acts of the Seattle City Council pursuant to Ordinances 10811, 108666 and 110860

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

Section 1. There is added to Seattle Municipal Code a new Chapter 3.33, as follows:

Municipal Code a new Chapter 333, as follows:

Section 3.33010 PUBPOSE. This chapter sets forth the structure and authority of Seattle Municipal Court and consolidates authorization previously given in Ordinances 101811, 108655 and 10600, which authority is hereby further ratified and confirmed. Consistent with large the confirmed confirmed consistent with large the confirmed confirmed consistent with large the confirmed con

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Section 3.33.020. JURISDICTION, AUTHORITY. The Numeipal Court has exclusive original burisdiction to the disease and the such as the

arrii of review or on appeal. Costs in civil and criminal cases may be taxed as provided by law.

Section 3.30.20. TRIAL BY JURY —
JURORS' FEES. In all civil cases and criminal cases where jurisdiction is concurrent with district courts as provided in Review of the Wand of Court in the plaintiff of defendant may demand a jury, which shall onsist of six citizens of the plaintiff of defendant may demand a jury, which shall be impanieled and swom as in case before district courts, or the trial may be by d. That is no jury trial may be held on a proceeding involving a traffic infraction or violation. A defendant in a civil case requesting a jury shall pay to the court a feet of the court. Where there is more than one defendant in an action and one or more of them requests a jury, only one jury teachill be collected by the Court. Each juror may receive the shall be collected by the Court. Each juror may receive her shall be collected by the Court. Each juror may receive her the shall be collected by the Court. Each juror may receive her than the collection of the court of

Section 4.33.080 PROCESS All process from the Municipal Court shall issue under the scal thereof and shall run throughout the state.

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Section 3.3.160 DIRECTOR OF PROBATION OF FICERS: BAILIFFS. The judges of the Assistance of their duties as required by immerce of their duties and records of the court administrator of the Assistance of the Court, and have the custody and court the court and shall have the custody of said court he or appears and records of said court he or appears and records of the Court, and shall have the session of the Court, and shall have the session of the Court, and shall have the session of the Court, and shall issue all process under his or her hand and take acknowledgements. He or she, and shall issue all process under his or her hand and perform all thingour, and shall do and perform all thingour, and shall can appear to the same, and shall on each day pay into the city. Treasury all moneys received for the City Treasury all the shall receive all the shall receive

Settion 33.19. WARRANT SERVERS:
SERVICE OF PROCESS.

(1) The position of warrant server is brerby established in Municipal Court. The number and qualifications of warrant the number and qualifications of warrant their compensation of his positions, and their compensation of his positions of warrant their compensation of his positions of their compensation of his positions of the positions of their compensation of his positions of the positions

(4) No process of Municipal Court shall be executed outside the corporate limits of the City served by the court unless the per-son authorized by said process shall first contact the applicable law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction of which the pro-cess is to be served.

contact the applicable law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction of which the process is to be served.

(5) Upon a defendant being arrested in another city or county the cost of arresting by the cost of a process of the cost of a process of the cost of the cost of a process of the cost of the

SAM SMIT.
President of the City Council.
Approved by me this 23rd day of December.
President of the City Council.
Approved by me this 23rd day of December.
Piled by me this 23rd day of December.
1937.

1987.
Attest: NORWARDJ. BROOKS.
City Comptroller and City Clerk
(Seal) By THERESA DUNBAR.
Deputy Clerk
Deputy Clerk
Brooks, Comptroller & City Clerk
BROOKS, Comptroller & City Clerk

Date of official publication in Daily Journal of Commerce, Science Lanuary 6, 1988. (C305.X)

NOTICE:

C-305-X

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#### Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF WASHINGTON

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter refered to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below

stated period. The annexed notice, a Ordinance No. 113786
Ordinance No. 113700
was published on January 6, 1988
was published on
1 12
J. Hair'
Subscribed and sworn to before me of

Notary Public for the State of Washington, residing in Seattle.