

AMENDED BILL

# Ordinance No. 90092

AN ORDINANCE relating to the establishment of a Joint Seattle/King County Office of Citizen Complaints; authorizing an agreement with King County.

COMPTROLLER  
FILE NUMBER

## Council Bill No. 90643

INTRODUCED: June 22, 1970  
BY: Executive Dept. Request  
REFERRED: June 22, 1970  
TO: Judiciary & Personnel Finance  
COMMITTEE OF WHOLE

REFERRED:

REPORTED:

THIRD READING:

PRESENTED TO MAYOR:

REFD. TO CITY CLERK:

VETOED BY MAYOR:

PASSED OVER VETO:

SECOND READING:

SIGNED:

APPROVED:

PUBLISHED:

VETO PUBLISHED:

VETO SUSTAINED:

RECEIVED  
JAN 19 10 53 AM '70

Unanimous Vote  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

FOR (BC)  
BLDG.  
ENG.  
F. O.  
A. C.  
S. E.  
C. O.  
LIGHT

CF-268196 - AGREEMENT

SEE BACK COVER

RES. 22882 DECLARING CITY COUNCIL CONCURRENCE WITH KING COUNTY COUNCIL IN SELECTION OF LELAND  
M. WALTER AS DIRECTOR OF JOINT SEATTLE/KING COUNTY OFFICE OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS.

ORDINANCE 99092

AN ORDINANCE relating to the establishment of a joint Seattle/King County Office of Citizen Complaints; authorizing an agreement with King County.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDED CODE: Section 1. That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to forthwith  
 99224 negotiate and execute on behalf of the City an agreement with King County to implement the Seattle/King County Office of Citizen Complaints established by King County Ordinance No. 00473; Provided, that the Mayor shall not execute the agreement authorized herein until the necessary action has been taken by King County to amend said King County Ordinance No. 00473 to delete Section 17 thereof captioned "Immunity of the Office of Citizen Complaints." Said agreement shall specify the duration of the agreement, shall provide that it is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for the first year's operation, shall contain a statement of the purposes of the agreement, and shall provide for the following: (a) the manner of financing the joint Office of Citizen Complaints and of establishing and maintaining a budget therefor, (b) the method or methods to be employed in accomplishing the partial or complete termination of the agreement and for disposing of property upon such partial or complete termination, (c) administration of the joint Office of Citizen Complaints by an administrator or joint board, with The City of Seattle being represented upon any joint board, (d) the manner of acquiring, holding and disposing of real and personal property used in the joint or cooperative undertaking and (e) any other necessary and proper matters in order to comply with King County Ordinance No. 00473 and to implement the establishment of a joint Seattle/King County Office of Citizen Complaints. Copies of said agreement

shall be filed with the City Comptroller of The City of Seattle, the King County Auditor and with the Secretary of State.

Section 2. All officers and employees of The City of Seattle are authorized and directed to cooperate fully with and furnish all assistance and information requested by the Director of the Office of Citizen Complaints which may be necessary for the discharge of his responsibilities under King County Ordinance No. 00473 and the agreement between the City and County authorized by this ordinance.

Section 3. The City hereby confers upon the Director of the Office of Citizen Complaints all powers which it may grant as are necessary for said Director to carry out his responsibilities under King County Ordinance No. 00473 and the agreement between the City and the County authorized by this ordinance.

Section 4. Any act pursuant to the authority and prior to the effective date of this ordinance is hereby ratified and confirmed.

(To be used for all Ordinances except Emergency.)

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty days from and after its passage and approval, if approved by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect at the time it shall become a law under the provisions of the city charter.

Passed by the City Council the 6 day of July, 1970

and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 6 day of July, 1970

*Charles M. Carroll*

President of the City Council.

"The foregoing Bill was, on the 7 day of July, 1970, presented to the Mayor who returned the same to the City Council without his approval or disapproval on the 17 day of July, 1970."

Filed by me this 17 day of July, 1970

Attest: *[Signature]*  
City Comptroller and City Clerk.

(SEAL)

Published.....

By *[Signature]*  
Deputy Clerk.

# The City of Seattle--Legislative Department

MR. PRESIDENT:

Date Reported  
and Adopted

Your Committee on JUDICIARY AND PERSONNEL and FINANCE

JUN 29 1970

to which was referred C. B. No. 90643,

relating to the establishment of a joint Seattle/King County Office of Citizen Complaints; authorizing an agreement with King County,

RECOMMEND THAT THE SAME BE AMENDED

to authorize the Mayor to negotiate a contract with King County to implement the Office of Seattle/King County Citizen Complaints providing that the County Council delete Section ~~17~~ of Ordinance No. 00473 in reference to immunity for said Office of Citizen Complaints,

AND THAT WHEN SO AMENDED, THE SAME BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

J & P  
Acting Chairman

Fin.  
Acting Chairman

Committee

Committee

# The City of Seattle--Legislative Department

MR. PRESIDENT:

Date Reported

and Adopted

JUL 6 1970

Your Committee ~~of~~ of the Whole  
to which was referred C.B. 90643, as amended,

relating to the establishment of a joint Seattle/King County Office of Citizen Complaints;  
authorizing an agreement with King County,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE SAME BE FURTHER AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1, line 8, after the word "agreement" insert the words:

"shall provide that it is contingent upon the availability of federal funds  
for the first year's operation,"

AND THAT WHEN SO AMENDED THE SAME DO PASS.

(See Engrossed Bill)

..... Chairman

..... Chairman

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

WCH:bj  
7/6/70

Committee

Committee



*E. M. L.*  
SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL  
Jul 17 5 42 PM '70

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR — CITY OF SEATTLE**

**Wes Uhlman, Mayor**

July 17, 1970

City Council  
Seattle, Washington

Honorable Members:

I am returning herewith, unsigned Ordinance No. 90643, relating to the establishment of a Joint Seattle/King County Office of Citizen Complaints, notwithstanding certain hereafter specified reservations which I hold.

As you know, I have been a strong supporter of the Ombudsman and/or Citizens Service Bureau concept for the public service. Government offices and bureaus often become a frustration and a concern to many citizens. The Ombudsman and the Service Bureau concepts can and have aided persons who have concerns and complaints which need to be rectified.

Section 7 of King County Ordinance No. 00463, incorporated by reference in your ordinance, purports to specify how the joint office of citizen complaints shall be funded. The first portion of that section provides for the funding on a population basis as between Seattle and King County. The proviso at the end of the section confuses the question by requiring payment on the basis of services rendered to the governmental units, without providing a formula for such apportionment. Is each agency of the city and the county to pay for investigations of their activities? Is each investigator of the joint office to keep track of how many hours he spends investigating city agencies as opposed to county agencies?

Section 19 of King County Ordinance No. 00473, dealing with appropriations, sets no limit on the joint office's budget; instead, it authorizes all sums necessary to carry out the provisions of the ordinance. The City of Seattle, as you know, faces the worst financial dilemma since the 1930's. Our Budget Office estimates a General Fund deficit as high as \$8 to \$10 million in 1971. Existing programs are going to have to be seriously curtailed and new programs tightly funded. It is apparent that no agency can responsibly be given a blank check to draw on city funds at this time.

Section 6 of King County Ordinance No. 00473 provides for an Advisory Committee, made up of three members of your honorable body and three members of the County Council. It is regrettable that there are no guarantees that this committee will have even one member with administrative experience, in view of the fact that the joint office will exclusively sit in judgment of administrative decisions.

Section 8 of King County Ordinance No. 00473 prohibits the employment of personnel for the joint office under any established merit system. The director therefore may violate the provisions of Article 16 of our Charter with impunity. The office could see the worst abuses of the patronage system return to our city. This would be happening in our most politically sensitive agency.

Poorly drafted legislation can be illusory and dangerous, but I am allowing this ordinance to become law, despite my reservations, so that an opportunity to provide the public with a genuinely needed service will not be lost. It is my intention to correct these substantial defects by negotiation with the County Executive, pursuant to Section 1 of your ordinance.

Yours truly,



WES UHLMAN,  
Mayor