



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL · CITY OF SEATTLE

April 24, 2009

King County Executive Ron Sims  
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

Councilmember Dow Constantine  
Chair, King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Sims and Councilmember Constantine,

Last July, the County Council unanimously passed, and the Executive signed, Ordinance 16200 declaring “it is the intent of the council that the county should continue to be the primary regional provider of secure detention and community corrections programs.” The Ordinance also called for the Executive to negotiate a long-term extension to its jail services agreement with the cities. The Ordinance and the Executive’s signing letter are attached for convenience.

We agree that the County should be the primary regional provider of detention and community corrections programs. We urge you to fulfill this commitment as soon as possible by negotiating a ten-year (or longer) extension of the current agreement.

This is not a new position for the City. The only reason Seattle and the northeastern cities began planning to build a new jail two years ago is that the County expressed no interest in a long-term extension of the agreement that ends in 2012. Seattle has been developing alternatives to incarceration and has substantially reduced the number of misdemeanants in jail over the last ten years, but without access to County jail space, Seattle and the other northeast cities must have their own jail for misdemeanants in order to meet our basic public safety obligations.

There is much public confusion about the cities' need for jail space. Many citizens believe that because the County has resolved to provide jail space for the region, the cities have no need for a new jail. Others believe that the recent reported trends in the jail population should allow the cities to decide for themselves that they do not need a new jail.

The reality, of course, is that only the County can decide to give the cities access to County jail space. We know you did not intend to contribute to the confusion, but it exists nonetheless. One way to resolve it would be for you to offer the cities a new long-term agreement. Another would be for you to acknowledge that you cannot do so, notwithstanding any recent short-term trends. We would much prefer the former, but the latter would be an improvement over the status quo.

To help make this decision, it may be appropriate to expedite the current recalculation of the jail capacity forecast from several years ago. County Council staff has told us that bookings are trending below the earlier forecast and may suggest that the capacity needed for city misdemeanants will be available for the long-term.

In the hope that you will be able to offer a new long-term agreement, we offer these thoughts on its terms:

First, we believe the minimum extension that would allow the cities to stop or postpone planning a new jail would be ten years. With a shorter extension we would be compelled to continue planning for our own jail facility.

Second, we would like to ensure that the inmates for whom we are responsible live in safe and humane conditions and receive services that will be effective in reducing their recidivism.

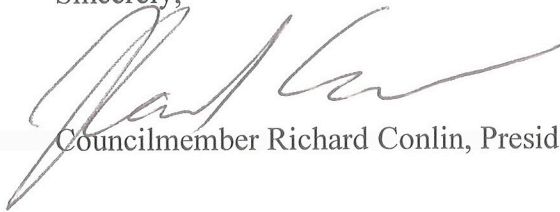
Third, we understand and respect the County Executive's position that a new regional partnership must allow the County to recover its costs, and look forward to improving our understanding of those costs.

We recognize the complexity of this issue. However, we believe we are at a point in time where strong leadership and collaboration can result in effective policy decisions consistent with your objectives as expressed in Ordinance 16200.

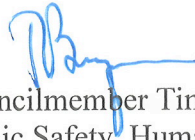
County Executive Ron Sims  
Councilmember Dow Constantine  
April 24, 2009  
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Please let us know your thoughts and intentions on these questions as soon as you can. If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Councilmember Richard Conlin, President



Councilmember Tim Burgess, Chair  
Public Safety, Human Services, and  
Education Committee



Councilmember Sally Clark



Councilmember Jan Drago



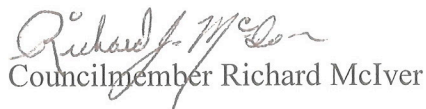
Councilmember Jean Godden



Councilmember Bruce Harrell



Councilmember Nick Licata



Councilmember Richard McIver



Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

cc:

Mayor Greg Nickels, City of Seattle  
Marilynne Beard, City of Kirkland  
Diane Carlson, City of Bellevue  
Scott MacColl, City of Shoreline  
Nina Rivkin, City of Redmond  
Reagan Dunn, King County Council  
Bob Ferguson, King County Council  
Larry Gossett, King County Council  
Jane Hague, King County Council  
Kathy Lambert, King County Council  
Julia Patterson, King County Council  
Larry Phillips, King County Council  
Pete von Reichbauer, King County Council

attachments



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

July 8, 2008

### Ordinance 16200

Proposed No. 2008-0322.2

Sponsors Gossett, Lambert, Patterson, Dunn,  
Ferguson, von Reichbauer,  
Phillips, Hague and Constantine

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to regional jail services;  
2 requesting reopening of the interlocal agreement between  
3 King County and the contract cities for jail services  
4 originally executed in 2002; and establishing criteria for the  
5 negotiation of new long term contract for jail services.  
6

#### 7 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

8 1. The King County department of adult and juvenile detention operates  
9 one of the largest detention systems in the Pacific Northwest. The  
10 department's annual budget for 2008 is \$120 million; \$147 million when  
11 the costs of jail health services are included.

12 2. The council adopted the current city jail services agreement in  
13 Ordinance 14573, covering the time period 2001 through 2012.

14 3. Cities have identified a need for more than one thousand four hundred  
15 jail beds for city inmates through 2026, and have developed a variety of  
16 options for building new misdemeanor detention capacity. The council

acknowledges a long-term need for additional detention and community corrections capacity in the region over the next twenty years.

4. Since 2000, the county has worked to manage criminal justice system costs through the implementation of the Adult Justice Operational Master Plan (AJOMP) and the creation of the community corrections division, both of which have been supported by the Criminal Justice Initiative. These initiatives have resulted in reductions in county jail populations that are well below historic projections.

5. The council finds that the principal regional county responsibility of maintaining public safety is best served through the integration of criminal justice services as exemplified through the county's adult justice and other operational master planning policies. As a consequence, it is the intent of the council that the county should continue to be the primary regional provider of secure detention and community corrections programs.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Recognizing capacity requirements for felons and county misdemeanants, the King County executive is requested to immediately begin negotiations with cities for the extension of the jail services agreement, providing at least two years beyond its current December 31, 2012, termination. Furthermore, it is the intent of the council that the executive increase the average daily population limits contained in the existing agreement, to the extent possible.

SECTION 2. The executive shall prepare a proposal which would result in the rapid development of additional detention capacity at the Maleng Regional Justice Center

40 ("RJC"). This proposal shall include the Maleng RJC Site Master Plan and a 2009 capital  
41 improvement project request. The 2009 capital project request shall combine the pre-  
42 design analysis recommended by the council auditor for major projects and a preliminary  
43 design. The proposal shall be submitted to the council by October 1, 2008, for council  
44 review and consideration in the 2009 budget process. Eleven copies of the proposal to  
45 the council shall be filed with the clerk of the council, who will retain the original and  
46 will forward copies to each councilmember and to the lead staff the committee of the  
47 whole, or its successor.

48 SECTION 3. It is the intent of the council that the executive also negotiate with  
49 both the state and the cities seeking their immediate participation in capital planning and  
50 construction of additional capacity for both secure detention and community corrections  
51 programs.

52 SECTION 4. The council requests that the executive negotiate a new long-term  
53 jail services agreement with the cities upon completion of the contract extension  
54 described above. These negotiations are encouraged to consider a new governance  
55 structure in the interest of building a strong and fair partnership for jail services between  
56 the county and cities, capital funding for additional detention capacity, allocation of  
57

Ordinance 16200

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58 operating costs and county and city utilization of criminal justice efficiencies and best  
59 practices to benefit the system.

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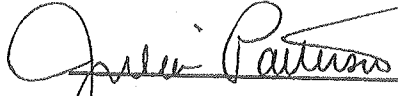
Ordinance 16200 was introduced on 6/9/2008 and passed as amended by the  
Metropolitan King County Council on 7/7/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von  
Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague

No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008.

  
Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments      None

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2008 JUL 18 PM 2:42  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL



## King County

Ron Sims  
King County Executive  
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3210  
Seattle, WA 98104  
206-296-4040 Fax 206-296-0194  
TTY Relay: 711  
www.kingcounty.gov

RECEIVED  
2008 JUL 18 PM 2:42  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

July 18, 2008

The Honorable Julia Patterson  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Patterson:

I have signed Ordinance 16200 regarding regional jail capacity. I appreciate the Council's unanimous statement, via this ordinance, acknowledging the need for new regional jail capacity and the potential benefits of a partnership among the county and cities. As the council knows, executive staff members have been working towards these ends for some time. A report highlighting the results of their efforts will be forwarded to you shortly, which will address the status and future of regional jail planning in much greater detail.

With regard to the ordinance itself, the striker bill approved by Council incorporated many of the changes suggested by executive staff and addressed most of our concerns with the ordinance as proposed. However, I wish to highlight two issues that will be of importance to the regional jail planning effort as we move forward.

First, the county must ensure adequate jail space to house county-responsible misdemeanants and felons. This is an issue of public safety and maintaining safe and humane detention facilities. As the county-responsible inmate population grows and begins to fill up existing capacity at the King County Correctional Facility and the Maleng Regional Justice Center, we will have a reduced number of beds available to provide to cities and other jurisdictions that contract beds from us for their inmates. This issue is acknowledged in the ordinance, but I wish to underscore that we continue to face a real hurdle in our ability to successfully extend the jail services agreement with cities beyond the year 2012. We will work with cities on this issue as we engage with them regarding joint regional jail capacity planning.

Second, in light of the county's budget challenges, it is important to be clear that such agreements must not exacerbate our financial problems and funding for the construction and operation of future jail capacity which remains a difficult issue to be resolved. Any regional partnership that emerges from our current efforts will have to share capital and operating costs and identify appropriate cost-sharing mechanisms on a full cost recovery basis.



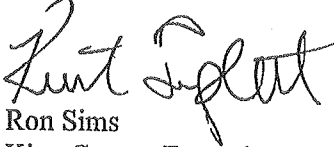
The Honorable Julia Patterson

July 18, 2008

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Overall, your strong statements of support for the continuing regional jail planning process are appreciated. We look forward to working together with you and with the cities as we meet the significant challenges ahead in jail planning.

Sincerely,



for Ron Sims  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Ross Baker, Chief of Staff

Saroja Reddy, Policy Staff Director

Anne Noris, Clerk of Council

Frank Abe, Communications Director

Bob Cowan, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Reed Holtgeerts, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD)

Claudia Balducci, Regional Jail Systems Coordinator, DAJD

Kathy Brown, Director, Facilities Management Division, Department of Executive Services