



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19466

Proposed No. 2022-0235.2

Sponsors Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the creation of protection
2 order commissioner positions for King County superior
3 court; amending Ordinance 16819, Section 2, as amended,
4 and K.C.C. 2.69.040; and declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

6 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

7 A. Ordinance 16819 approved the creation of criminal court commissioners,
8 restricting criminal court commissioner appointments to existing authorized family law
9 and mental health commissioners.

10 B. Ordinance 19383 authorized superior court to hire criminal commissioners
11 solely for the purposes of the backlog reduction project and the State v. Blake, 197
12 Wn.2d 170 (2021), decision workload. The criminal commissioners authorized by
13 Ordinance 19383 were in addition to the existing family law and mental health
14 commissioner employees.

15 C. RCW 7.105.580 authorizes the superior court to appoint one or more attorneys
16 to act as protection order commissioners, who may also be appointed to any other
17 commissioner position authorized by law, provided that protection order commissioner
18 positions are created with the consent of the county legislative authority.

19 D. Under current state law, there are six different types of protection orders
20 codified separately to provide an order for protection for vulnerable adults and people

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21 experiencing domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, stalking and other extreme
22 risk. Petitions for relief under those protection orders are processed by judicial officers
23 depending on their authority. Effective July 1, 2022, under a new chapter of state law,
24 Chapter 215, Laws of Washington 2021, all protection orders will be consolidated and
25 harmonized, along with judicial authority for commissioners to provide relief for all
26 protection orders.

27 E. RCW 7.105.580 authorizes superior court to appoint attorneys to act as
28 protection order commissioners and exercise all powers and perform all duties of an
29 appointed court commissioner. That authority must be consented to by the county
30 legislative authority before creating the positions and being implemented by superior
31 court.

32 F. Unless given authorization by the council, after July 1, 2022, statutory
33 commissioners will only be authorized to hear domestic violence protections orders. The
34 remaining types of protection orders must be heard by constitutional commissioners and
35 judges. If this ordinance does not take effect by July 1, 2022, there will likely be an
36 increase in protection order processing time if petitioners qualify for a protection order
37 that does not match the order they filed for.

38 G. It is necessary for this ordinance to take effect immediately to preserve public
39 peace, health, safety and support county government, as RCW 7.105.580 takes effect July
40 1, 2022, and allow any family law, mental health or criminal commissioner in King
41 County superior court to evaluate petitioner claims and provide the applicable protection
42 order in compliance with state law.

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43 SECTION 2. Ordinance 16819, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.69.040 are
44 hereby amended to read as follows:

45 A. The county legislative authority approves the creation of criminal court
46 commissioner positions, which functions shall be performed by existing authorized
47 family law and mental health commissioners to assist the superior court in disposing of
48 adult criminal matters, as authorized by RCW 2.24.010. Superior court is hereby
49 authorized to hire criminal commissioners solely for the purposes of the backlog
50 reduction project and the State v. Blake, 197 Wn.2d 170 (2021), decision workload; those
51 commissioners may be hired in addition to existing employed family law and mental
52 health commissioner employees.

53 B. The county legislative authority approves the creation of protection order
54 commissioner positions, which functions shall be performed by existing authorized
55 family law, mental health and criminal commissioners to assist the superior court in
56 adjudicating protection order matters, as authorized by RCW 7.105.580.

57 SECTION 3. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency
58 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,

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- 59 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public
- 60 institutions.

Ordinance 19466 was introduced on 6/21/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/28/2022, by the following vote:

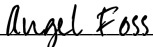
Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

7E1C273CE9994B6...
Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

92FC09E4162E45A...
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

Certificate Of Completion

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Subject: Please DocuSign: Ordinance 19466.docx	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 4	Signatures: 2
Certificate Pages: 5	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled	Cherie Camp
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	401 5th Ave
	Suite 100
	Seattle, WA 98104
	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov
	IP Address: 198.49.222.20

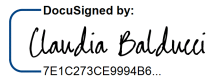
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Claudia Balducci
 claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov
 King County General (ITD)
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

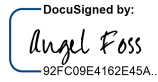
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Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	6/30/2022 9:37:27 AM
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Required hardware and software

Operating Systems:	Windows® 2000, Windows® XP, Windows Vista®; Mac OS® X
Browsers:	Final release versions of Internet Explorer® 6.0 or above (Windows only); Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or above (Windows and Mac); Safari™ 3.0 or above (Mac only)
PDF Reader:	Acrobat® or similar software may be required to view and print PDF files
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum

Enabled Security Settings:	Allow per session cookies
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