



# 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.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 5
- 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.  
89

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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KING COUNTY COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

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