



**Signature Report**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**August 27, 2018**

**Ordinance**

**Proposed No.** 2018-0374.1

**Sponsors** von Reichbauer and McDermott

1           AN ORDINANCE authorizing a new interlocal agreement  
2           and amendment to the existing financing agreement with  
3           the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium  
4           PFD.

5           **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6           1. The Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities  
7           District operates the publicly owned Safeco Field.
- 8           2. Safeco Field is a gathering place providing an array of public benefits and  
9           employs over two thousand full and part time employees, in addition to being a  
10          venue for the Seattle Mariners.
- 11          3. The Seattle Mariners draws nearly three million fans to Safeco Field every  
12          year. Of these fans, approximately fifty-five percent come from outside King  
13          County. More than 45,000,000 people have attended baseball games since Safeco  
14          Field opened.
- 15          4. Since 1967 the King County lodging tax has been used to finance the  
16          construction of two professional sports stadiums, an exhibition center.
- 17          5. Under the terms of the interlocal agreement the county would for twenty three  
18          years transfer a portion of future lodging tax revenues to the Washington State  
19          Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District for major capital

20 improvements to the basic infrastructure of the ballpark. The agreement does not  
21 authorize public funding on upgrades to the facility, such as suites or so-called  
22 Club spaces. The agreement further requires that all modernization upgrades, as  
23 well as all operation and maintenance expenses to be paid for by the Mariners  
24 during the new 25 year lease term.

25 6. In the next 20 years, Safeco Field is expected to generate \$46 million for local  
26 jurisdictions and \$140 million for Washington State.

27 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:**

28 SECTION 1. The County finds that the presence of a Major League Baseball  
29 team in King County provides a substantial public benefit to the residents of the County.  
30 The County also finds that continued investment in the publicly owned ballpark is  
31 necessary to ensure that it remain a source of wholesome, family-centered entertainment  
32 and provide a sense of enhanced civic pride as well as a positive impact on the local and  
33 regional economy. The County further finds that the ballpark promotes tourism and  
34 attracts tourists to the county, with more than fifty percent of fans coming from locations  
35 outside of King County.

36 SECTION 2. During the term of the new Safeco lease, the County has  
37 determined to provide a portion of the funds necessary for the replacement, repair, and  
38 modernization of the publicly owned ballpark's basic infrastructure through an allocation  
39 of proceeds from its lodging tax.

40 SECTION 3. The executive is hereby authorized to execute an interlocal  
41 agreement with the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities  
42 District substantially in the form attached hereto as Attachment A in order to specify the

43 terms and conditions under which the funds will be transferred by the County for stadium  
44 improvements.

45         SECTION 4. The executive is hereby authorized to execute the sixth amendment  
46 to the 1996 financing agreement with the Washington State Major League Baseball  
47 Stadium Public Facilities District substantially in the form attached hereto as Attachment  
48 B.  
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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** A. Agreement Between King County and the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District, B. Amendment No. 6 to Agreement