AN ORDINANCE of the City of Kent, Washington, adding a new section 9.02.33 to the Kent Municipal Code defining the crime of patronizing a prostitute.

WHEREAS, the Kent Municipal Code already makes it a crime to commit or offer or agree to commit an act of prostitution; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that so long as prostitution is illegal that both the prostitute and the customer should be penalized; and

WHEREAS, The City Council seeks hereby to send a clear message to the citizenry that patronizing a prostitute is criminal conduct; NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, WASHINGTON DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Section 9.02.33 is added to the Kent Municipal Code which shall read as follows:

9.02.33 - PATRONIZING A PROSTITUTE.

A. Unlawful Act: It is unlawful for anyone to patronize a prostitute. A person is guilty of patronizing a prostitute if:

1. Pursuant to a prior understanding he/she pays a fee to another person as compensation for such person or a third person having engaged in sexual conduct with him/her; or

2. He/she pays or agrees to pay a fee to another person pursuant to an understanding that in return therefore, the other person or a third party will engage in sexual conduct with him/her; or

3. He/she solicits or requests another person to engage in sexual conduct with him/her in return for a fee, exchange, reward or promise.
B. For persons charged with violations of 9.02.33, it shall not be a defense that the person agreeing to accept a fee to engage in sexual conduct or who is solicited or requested to accept such a fee is a law enforcement officer acting in his/her official capacity.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

DAN KELLEHER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIE JENSEN, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

SANDRA DRISCOLL, CITY ATTORNEY

PASSED the 19 day of Sept, 1989.
APPROVED the 20 day of Sept, 1989.
PUBLISHED the 22 day of Sept, 1989.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. 2872, passed by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Kent as hereon indicated.

MARIE JENSEN, CITY CLERK