Ordinance No. 3283

["Beginning July 1, 1998"]

(Amending or Repealing Ordinances)

Repealed by Ord. 3595 (Secs. 2.01.030 & 2.02.020)
Amended by Ord. 3617 (Sec. 2.02.010)
Amended by Ord. 3687 (Secs. 2.01.010 & 2.02.010)
MEMORANDUM

TO: Council President Houser and City Councilmembers

FROM: Jim White, Mayor

SUBJECT: Veto of Ordinance No. 3283

DATE: March 21, 1996

This memorandum is to advise Council of my decision to VETO Ordinance No. 3283, Term Limits. I am not vetoing this ordinance because of any personal political motives. Running for the office of Mayor for three more terms is not in my plans. Therefore, the provisions of the term limits ordinance will not apply to me. Rather, I am vetoing this ordinance due to my strongly held belief that term limits are not appropriately applied to local government elected positions. The combination of experienced Councilmembers and fresh ideas represented by new Councilmembers such as we now have, and have almost always had, has proved to be very effective. Such a mix may not be possible in a Council governed by term limits, as the passage of time alone rather than competency and service will determine whether or not experienced Councilmembers can continue in office. Furthermore, there has been no evidence presented that would indicate that term limits are necessary in the City of Kent. City Council held two public hearings on this matter and received no public testimony whatsoever. Clearly, this is not an action that has been sought by the voters of Kent, nor does it appear to have any public support. Finally, I believe that term limits are an insult to the voters of Kent. I believe that the voters have the intelligence and sophistication to elect their Mayor and Councilmembers on their merits. The voters are perfectly capable of voting out an incumbent when they determine that a better candidate exists.

For these reasons I am hereby transmitting my VETO to the Council, and have caused a copy to be filed with the City Clerk. I urge Council to consider the reasons for my veto, and to sustain it.

Jim White, Mayor
March 21, 1996

Veto Overridden by Council on April 2, 1996
ORDINANCE NO. 3283

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, amending Chapters 2.01 and 2.02 of the Kent City Code relating to term limits for the Mayor and City Council Members and further providing for other amendments relating to compensation.

WHEREAS, the city Council, in reviewing its operations as the legislative body for the City of Kent, has considered the issue of term limits for City Council members and the mayor; and

WHEREAS, as a result of said review, the City Council finds it appropriate to adopt term limits and to make other amendments to the code relating to Council members and the Mayor;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

TERM LIMITS
SECTION 1. Chapter 2.01 of the Kent City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2.01. CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 2.01.010. Compensation of council members.

A. Pursuant to the provisions of RCW 35A.12.070 each city council member shall be paid a salary of five hundred dollars ($500.00) per month. Effective January 1, 1998, each city council member shall be paid a salary of five hundred fifty dollars ($550.00) per month. Additionally, effective January 1, 1998, council member salaries shall be adjusted seventy-five (75) percent of the Consumer Price Index-W (Seattle) for July 1, 1996 to July 1, 1997. Each succeeding January 1, council member salaries shall be adjusted seventy-five (75) percent of the Consumer Price Index-W (Seattle) for the period of July to July of the previous year. The duly elected president of the city council shall be paid an additional salary of one hundred dollars ($100.00) per month in addition to the regular council member salary. This additional salary shall not be subject to Consumer Price Index adjustments as set forth herein.

B. Each council member may receive medical insurance coverage benefits for himself or herself as is provided to full time employees of the city. Additionally, each council member
may, at his or her expense, elect to obtain medical insurance coverage benefits for his or her family as is provided pursuant to city policy.

Sec. 2.01.020. City council meetings.

The regular and other meetings of the city council shall be held in the council chambers at the city hall unless otherwise designated by majority of the city council at a regular or special meeting. The regular meetings shall be held on the first and third Tuesday of each month except that during the month of December of each year, there shall be only one (1) regular council meeting to be held on the second Tuesday of said month. Special meetings shall be held as provided by law at such times as may be designated. Regular meetings shall convene at 7:00 p.m. If any such day of a regular meeting is a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the next business day at the same hour.

Sec. 2.01.030. Term Limits for council members.

No person may serve on the City Council, whether by election or by appointment, consecutive terms which exceed twelve (12) years. Terms previously served or terms currently being served on the effective date of this provision shall not be counted as part of the term limits established herein.
SECTION 2. Chapter 2.02 of the Kent City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2.02. MAYOR

Sec. 2.02.010. Compensation.

A. Until January 1, 1984, the base salary of the mayor shall be one thousand five hundred eleven dollars ($1,511.00) per month. The compensation reflects the fact that the position of mayor is not considered to be a full-time position.

B. Beginning January 1, 1994, the base salary of the mayor of the city shall be fifty thousand dollars ($50,000.00) per year; the compensation reflecting the fact that the position of the mayor of the city is a full-time position beginning on such date. In addition to such change in salary, the mayor shall be entitled to receive all benefits associated with full-time employment with the city, as established by city policy for this position. Such benefits may be adjusted from time to time, on a city-wide basis, in accordance with city policy. Any adjustments increasing benefits beyond those provided to full-time employees and any increases in salary shall be by ordinance pursuant to RCW 35A.12.070.
Sec. 2.02.020. Additional Compensation. Term Limits for Mayor.

Until January 1, 1994, in addition to the base salary the mayor shall be entitled to compensation for attendance at meetings outside the city other than those of a ceremonial nature, which the mayor attends as the representative or delegate of the city. Beginning January 1, 1994, the provisions of this section shall have no force and effect.

No person may serve as Mayor, whether by election or by appointment, consecutive terms which exceed twelve (12) years. Terms previously served or terms currently being served on the effective date of this provision shall not be counted as part of the term limits established herein.

Sec. 2.02.030. Amount of Additional Compensation.

Until January 1, 1994, the compensation to which the mayor shall be entitled shall not exceed twenty-five dollars ($25.00) per meeting. Such payment shall not be authorized for more than seventy-two (72) such meetings in any one (1) calendar year. Beginning January 1, 1994, the provisions of this section shall have no force and effect.
Sec. 2.02.040. Exceptions from additional compensation.

Until January 1, 1994, in the event that the mayor receives compensation from any other governmental agency for attendance at such meetings as the city representative, no compensation shall be paid by the city for such meeting, nor shall such meetings be considered or counted as part of the maximum of seventy two (72) meetings for which payment is authorized. Beginning January 1, 1994, the provisions of this section shall have no force and effect.

**SECTION 3.** If any one or more sections, sub-sections, or sentences of this chapter are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4.** This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

VETO

JIM WHITE, MAYOR

3-21-96
ATTEST:

BRENDA JACOBER, CITY CLERK, DEPUTY
DONNA SWAW

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ROGER A. LUBOVICH, CITY ATTORNEY

PASSED 19 day of March, 1996.

VETOED 21 day of March, 1996.

APPROVED 22nd day of March, 1996.

PUBLISHED 22nd day of March, 1996.

VETO OVERRIDDEN BY COUNCIL 2nd day of April, 1996.

PUBLISHED 5th day of April, 1996.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. 3283, passed by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Kent as hereon indicated.

BRENDA JACOBER, CITY CLERK, DEPUTY
DONNA SWAW