

RESOLUTION 667

A Resolution of the Lacey City Council Relating to the Proposed City-County Charter:

WHEREAS, a Board of Freeholders was elected to study government within Thurston County and propose a Charter which would streamline government, eliminate costly duplication, protect water quality, and develop new growth strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Freeholders is proposing a restructuring of government responsibilities without first conducting a comprehensive financial analysis to determine the cost increases resulting from the proposed city-county Charter and conveying those to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Freeholders allowed only a two week public review opportunity of the proposed Charter before asking the County Commissioners to place it on the November ballot; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter will add to rather than subtract from the complexity of government by inserting additional layers of elected and appointed officials and associated staff between residents and those providing them services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Freeholders failed to meet their stated goal of equalizing revenues but rather simply required each city to give up an additional 10% of their already limited sales tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Freeholders did not fulfill their goals of eliminating any units or levels of government, but rather added new levels including a city-county planning commission and an intergovernmental advisory "entity"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter increases government costs by adding two elected commissioners, associated staffing for new boards and

commissioners, and requires costly rewriting of all current comprehensive plans; and

WHEREAS, the Charter proposes no new growth strategies but simply recognizes existing growth policies which are already in effect by the cooperative actions of the local jurisdictions and through the State Growth Management legislation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter effectively transfers complete and ultimate power for planning to the County, even though the County has the least restrictive controls upon development and has historically allowed unplanned growth to occur; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter requires that all adopted local plans including land use, water, sewer, storm water, capital facilities, and park plans must be rewritten; an extremely costly repetitive, unnecessary, and time-consuming requirement; and

WHEREAS, the extremely broad powers provided to the expanded county commission would be provided without checks and balances thereby allowing a three member majority of the commissioners to rule without restriction; and

WHEREAS, the trend statewide, nationally and internationally is for more representative government closer to the people by decentralization of power; and

WHEREAS, we continue to believe that services are most effective when provided by government closest to the people rather than by a complex and remote large county government; and

WHEREAS, the Charter authorizes the proposed new county government to unilaterally increase public utility rates to fund county programs; and

WHEREAS, the uncertainty of control of all utilities will create a negative atmosphere for the sale of bonds, thereby severely limiting the ability to provide crucial services; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of substantial revenues from towns and cities to the county will result in a significant reduction in the level of service provided to the citizens by the towns and cities; and

WHEREAS, the Charter transfers to the new city-county government unprecedented authority to propose the entire elimination of the City of Lacey and of Fire District No. 3 by a simple majority vote of all residents within the county regardless of the wishes of those citizens residing within the city or district; and

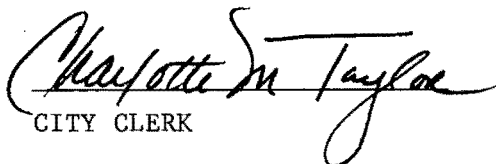
WHEREAS, in summary, none of the initial goals of the proposed Charter have been met, but only a restructuring that will cost more, add governmental complexity, and move the control of government further from the people

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON, that after review of the Charter proposed by the Board of Freeholders, the City Council does, by passage of this resolution, declare its opposition to the adoption of said Charter.

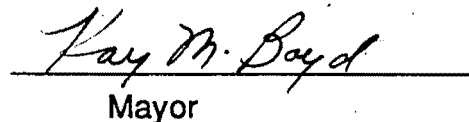
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON, this 11TH day of October, 1990.

CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

By:


Mayor