

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL Snohomish County, Washington

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 07-049

RELATING TO PERFORMANCE AUDITS, ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF COUNTY PERFORMANCE AUDITOR, TERMINATING THE AUDITOR'S DIVISION OF PERFORMANCE AUDITING, IMPLEMENTING CHARTER SECTION 2.150, AMENDING OR REPEALING SECTIONS OF CHAPTERS 2.700 AND 3.68 SCC, AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES

WHEREAS, the 2006 Charter Review Commission proposed an amendment to the Snohomish County Charter that directs the County Council to establish an independent Office of County Performance Auditor in the legislative branch of county government; and

WHEREAS, the proposed charter amendment, including a new Section 6.150, was approved by county voters at the general election held on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.150 provides that the Office of County Performance Auditor shall commence functioning by July 1, 2007, and shall have the duties and responsibilities provided by that section and as provided by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is intended to implement the charter amendment by terminating the Division of Performance Auditing established by SCC 2.700.010 and establishing the Office of County Performance Auditor as provided herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. The title of Snohomish County Code Chapter 2.700, adopted by Amended Ordinance No. 97-061 on July 9, 1997, is amended to read:

Chapter 2.700

((SNOHOMISH COUNTY AUDITOR'S)) OFFICE ((DIVISION)) OF COUNTY PERFORMANCE ((AUDITING)) AUDITOR

Section 2. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.005, last amended by Ordinance No. 05-093 on September 14, 2005, is amended to read:

2.700.005 Definitions.

In this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise,

ORDINANCE NO. 07-049
RELATING TO PERFORMANCE AUDITS, ESTABLISHING
THE OFFICE OF COUNTY PERFORMANCE AUDITOR,
TERMINATING THE AUDITOR'S DIVISION OF PERFORMANCE
AUDITING, IMPLEMENTING CHARTER SECTION 2.150, ETC. - 1

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- (1) (("Auditor")) "Council" means the Snohomish County ((Auditor)) Council.
- (2) "Audit plan" means a plan developed in consultation with the committee that outlines what departments and/or programs will be scheduled for a performance audit in any given calendar year.
- (3) "Audit report" means a report prepared by the ((division)) office reporting the results of a performance audit conducted under this chapter.
- (4) "Committee" means the performance ((auditing)) audit committee established by SCC 2.700.040.
- (5) "Department" means all executive departments established pursuant to the Snohomish County Charter and all county elected officials except the judges of the district and superior courts.
- (6) (("Division")) "Office" means the ((division of performance auditing)) office of county performance auditor established by this chapter.
- (7) "Government auditing standards for performance ((auditing)) audits" means the standards for performance ((auditing)) audits contained in the document "Government Auditing Standards" published by the Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office, as revised.
- (8) "Peer review" means a review conducted ((by the National Association of Local Government Auditors NALGA, a group of auditing peers, in order to insure that the division is conducting its audits according to government auditing standards for performance auditing)) in accordance with guidelines for external peer review contained in government auditing standards for performance auditing.
- (9) "Performance audit" means an objective and systematic assessment of program efficiency, effectiveness and economy in its stewardship of public funds. It is the qualitative nature of performance auditing and the opportunities identified in the process to improve management and service delivery that distinguishes this activity from traditional financial audits.
- (10) "Program" means a distinct operational activity which is funded by the county.

Section 3. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.010, reenacted by Ordinance No. 02-038 on September 4, 2002, is amended to read:

2.700.010 ((Division)) Office established -- Independence.

(1) The ((division)) office of county performance ((auditing)) auditor is hereby established in the ((auditor's office answerable directly to the auditor)) legislative branch in accordance with Section ((3.130)) 2.150 of the Snohomish County Charter for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating, and reporting on the integrity of the county's financial management system, the accuracy of financial recordkeeping, compliance with applicable laws, policies, guidelines and procedures, and the efficiency and effectiveness of operations and programs.

 county council to a term of four years unless removed by the county council. A person must have appropriate professional credentials to be eligible for appointment. The performance auditor may be removed from office for cause by the affirmative vote of a majority of the council.

(3) The professional employees of the ((division)) office will be subject to the management and exempt employees compensation plan provided for in chapter 3.69 SCC and will be paid in accordance with SCC 3.69 040. Staffing of

(2) The performance auditor shall be appointed by majority vote of the

- (3) The professional employees of the ((division)) office will be subject to the management and exempt employees compensation plan provided for in chapter 3.69 SCC and will be paid in accordance with SCC 3.69.040. Staffing of the ((division)) office will be determined by the ((auditor-according to the workload of the division and the budget process of the)) county council in accordance with chapters 4.26 and 3.68 SCC.
- (((3))) (4) The ((division)) office will adhere to generally accepted government auditing standards for performance ((auditing)) audits in conducting its work and will function independently, subject to administrative direction by the council chairperson or chief of staff, as provided therein.
- Section 4. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.020, last amended by Ordinance No. 05-093 on September 14, 2005, is amended to read:

2.700.020 Authority -- Scope of audits.

- (1) The ((division)) office of county performance ((auditing)) auditor shall conduct performance or financial audits and/or studies as determined by the ((auditor)) county council to independently determine whether:
- (a) Activities and programs being implemented have been authorized by county charter, county code, county policy, or applicable state or federal law or regulations:
- (b) Activities and programs are being conducted in a manner calculated to accomplish the objectives intended by county charter, county code, county policy, or applicable state or federal law or regulations;
- (c) Activities and programs are performing efficiently, effectively, and economically when compared against objective criteria;
- (d) Management has established, implemented, and adhered to adequate internal controls;
 - (e) Other criteria specified in the annual audit plan are satisfied.
- (2) All performance audits shall be conducted in accordance with government auditing standards for performance ((auditing)) audits. This chapter shall not be applied to require disclosure of information that is privileged or otherwise exempt from public disclosure.
- Section 5. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.030, last amended by Ordinance No. 05-093 on September 14, 2005, is amended to read:

2.700.030 Annual audit plan.

- (1) ((The division of)) On or before December 31 of each year the performance ((auditing)) auditor shall prepare an annual audit plan for the following year in consultation with the performance ((auditing)) audit committee and submit the plan for approval by the county council acting by motion. The ((auditor)) council may amend the annual audit plan ((during the budget year after review by the committee)) at any time after review and comment by the committee. Final authority for selection of audit areas shall reside with the ((auditor)) council.
- (2) In the selection of audit areas, the determination of audit scope, and the timing of audit work, the ((division)) performance auditor shall consult with appropriate federal, state, and independent auditors so that audit efforts are properly coordinated and unnecessary duplication is avoided, and to promote collaboration where appropriate.

Section 6. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.035, last amended Ordinance No. 05-093 on September 14, 2005, is amended to read:

2.700.035 Coordination of county ((auditing efforts)) audits.

In order to best coordinate auditing efforts across the county and assure that the ((division)) annual audit plan is appropriate ((, thorough,)) and avoids redundancy, the chief of staff of the county council, all county elected officials ((,)) except the judges of the superior and district courts, and all executive departments shall submit the following to the ((division)) performance auditor:

- (1) Prior to initiating such services, <u>written</u> notification of any proposal to retain the services of external auditors or consultants to do audit or program evaluation work;
- (2) Complete copies of resulting <u>audit or consultant</u> reports within 30 days of completion of such reports.

Section 7. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.040, last amended Ordinance No. 05-093 on September 14, 2005, is amended to read:

2.700.040 Performance ((auditing)) audit committee.

(1) A performance auditing committee is hereby established and shall be comprised of eight members, consisting of the ((auditor)) chairperson of the county council or a member of the council designated by the chairperson and seven appointed members. Of the seven appointed members of the committee, two members shall be appointed by the executive and five members shall be appointed by the county council. Council appointees shall be nominated by each council member, and not by any other council member, and confirmed by the council so that each council district is represented by at least one member of the committee. All appointed members shall be residents of the county and shall

- (2) The performance ((auditing)) audit committee shall, at a minimum,
- (a) Advise the ((division)) performance auditor on the development of the annual audit plan:
- (b) ((Assist in the selection of external auditors or other experts where that may be necessary to carry out the annual audit plan;
- ————(c))) Review the audit process to provide input to the ((division)) performance auditor on improvements and/or changes in the process and/or procedures used by the ((division)) office in carrying out the annual audit plan; and
 - (((d) Provide input on the annual budget of the ((division)) office; and
- (e))) (c) Review final audit reports to ((ensure)) provide input to the performance auditor regarding whether procedures for issuance of the ((report)) reports have been followed.
- (3) The chairperson of the county council or the chairperson's designee shall serve as chairperson of the performance audit committee. The performance auditor shall provide staff support to the committee.

Section 8. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.050, reenacted by Ordinance No. 02-038 on September 4, 2002, is amended to read:

2.700.050 Access to records and property.

(1) All county officers and employees shall furnish the ((division)) office of county performance auditor with requested information and records in their custody ((regarding-powers, duties, activities, programs, organization, property, and methods of business)) relating to a performance audit unless disclosure to the office would be contrary to federal, state, or local law. In addition, they shall provide access for the ((division)) office to inspect ((all)) property, equipment, and facilities in their custody for the purpose of a performance audit. ((If county officers and employees fail to furnish required information or access, the committee will review the facts and advise the division as to the process to follow to acquire the information and/or access to conduct the audit.)) Except to the extent that disclosure of information or records to the office would be contrary to federal, state, or local law, all county officers and employees shall cooperate fully in interviews conducted by the ((division)) office in the course of a performance audit.

 (2) The office of county performance auditor shall give confidential information the same level of protection that is required of the audited department. The performance auditor may enter into a data sharing or confidentiality agreement with the head of an audited department to protect confidential information from unauthorized disclosure. In responding to a request for disclosure of public records the performance auditor shall redact items that are exempt from disclosure as determined pursuant to chapter 2.51 SCC.

Section 9. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.060, reenacted by Ordinance No. 02-038 on September 4, 2002, is amended to read:

2.700.060 Department/program response.

A final draft of each audit report shall be furnished to the audited elected official or department and/or program manager for review and comment before a final audit report is issued. The elected official or department and/or program manager must respond in writing stating agreement with the audit findings and recommendations or stating reasons for disagreement with the findings and/or recommendations, and setting out plans to solve problems identified in the draft audit report and a timetable for their implementation. The response must be furnished to the office of county performance auditor ((and the division)) within ((the)) a reasonable time frame specified by the performance auditor. The final audit report must contain the full text of the response. Implementation of solutions to problems identified in the draft audit report that require additional funding shall be contingent upon approval of the additional funding by the county council.

Section 10. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.070, last amended by Ordinance No. 05-093 on September 14, 2005, is amended to read:

2.700.070 Audit reports.

Each audit will result in a written audit report. Audit reports can range from a memorandum to a full report depending on the scope determined for each project. Each audit report will be ((issued promptly so as to make information available for timely use by the county council, county executive, other elected officials, department directors, program managers, and other interested persons)) submitted to the county council, the county executive, the audited department and other interested persons upon request. The performance auditor ((or division)) will forward copies of the audit report to the committee and record the reports with the county auditor's recording division. Each full audit report shall contain at a minimum the following information:

(1) A statement of audit objectives and a description of the audit scope and methodology;

- (2) A statement that the audit was performed in accordance with government auditing standards for performance audits or a statement describing how it does not conform to those standards;
- (3) A description of all significant instances of non-compliance with policies and program parameters found during or in connection with the audit;
- (4) A full discussion of audit findings and conclusions, including any significant control weaknesses found, the cause of problem areas and recommendations for necessary or desirable action;
- (5) Pertinent views of responsible officials concerning audit findings, conclusions and recommendations as recorded in the full text of responses furnished pursuant to SCC ((2.700.070)) 2.700.060;
- (6) A listing of any significant issues needing further study and consideration; and
- (7) A description of noteworthy accomplishments of the audited elected official, department and/or program.
- Section 11. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.080, last amended by Ordinance No. 05-093 on September 14, 2005, is amended to read:

2.700.080 Peer review.

- (1) The ((division)) office of county performance auditor shall be subject to peer review ((at least once every four years by the National Association of Local Government Auditors, NALGA)) as required by government auditing standards for performance audits. A copy of the written report of any ((such independent)) peer review shall be furnished to the committee and to the council chief of staff. In addition, the report shall be recorded in the county auditor's recording division.
- (2) The peer review will evaluate compliance with government auditing standards for performance auditing and the quality of audit effort and reporting. Specific peer review areas shall include staff qualifications, adequacy of planning and supervision, sufficiency of work paper preparation and evidence, and the adequacy of systems for reviewing internal controls, fraud and abuse, program compliance, performance compliance and automated systems. The peer review will also assess the form, distribution, timelines, content, and presentation of audit reports. The cost of peer review will be paid from funds budgeted for the ((division)) office.
- Section 12. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.090, last amended by Ordinance No. 05-093 on September 14, 2005, is amended to read:

2.700.090 ((Division)) Office budget.

((The)) A proposed budget ((ef)) for the ((division)) office of county performance auditor will be developed by the ((auditor's office)) performance auditor, after consultation with the council chief of staff, and submitted to the

 council chairperson and chief of staff. The chairperson shall incorporate the proposed budget into the county budget process provided for in chapter 4.26 in such manner and with such changes as the chairperson deems appropriate.

Section 13. Snohomish County Code Section 2.700.045, adopted by Ordinance No. 02-038 on September 4, 2002, is repealed.

Section 14. Snohomish County Code Section 3.68.010, last amended by Amended Ordinance No. 04-009 on March 10, 2004, is amended to read:

3.68.010 Scope of chapter.

The provisions of this chapter apply to the following positions:

- (1) Two positions designated by each district court judge;
- (2) Two positions designated by each of the following elected officials: assessor, auditor, clerk, treasurer, prosecuting attorney, and each county councilmember:
 - (3) Four positions designated by the county executive;
- (4) Six positions designated by the sheriff in accordance with RCW 41.14.070, and the Commander of the Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force appointed by the sheriff in accordance with SCC 3.67.020;
- (5) The department heads appointed by the executive and confirmed by the council;
- (6) The division directors and division managers and deputy department heads of executive and administrative departments whose department head is appointed by the executive and confirmed by the council;
 - (7) The professional employees within the executive's office;
- (8) Deputy prosecuting attorneys in the prosecuting attorney's office except as provided in Snohomish county Ordinance 83-147;
 - (9) The professional employees within the county council's office;
- (10) Two positions designated by each superior court judge, the superior court commissioners, the superior court administrator, the supervisor of family court investigations, the juvenile court administrator, the juvenile court assistant administrator, and the juvenile court detention manager; except that no law clerk/bailiff hired and designated pursuant to this chapter subsequent to December 31, 1992, shall be entitled to the leave benefits conferred by this chapter, but instead they shall receive, use and accrue vacation, sick and holiday benefits in accordance with chapter 3A.06 SCC;
- (11) The hearing examiner and any deputy examiners selected and appointed pursuant to SCC 2.02.030 and 2.02.040;
- (12) Any classified employee transferred, reclassified or promoted to an exempt position on or after the effective date of this subsection; ((and))

- (13) The chief clerk of the boundary review board and the clerk of the board of equalization appointed pursuant to the authority of RCW 36.93 and RCW 84.48 ((-));
- (14) The law and justice cabinet FTE appointed pursuant to SCC 3.68.030(7); and
- (15) The professional employees within the office of county performance auditor established by SCC 2.700.010.
- Section 15. Snohomish County Code Section 3.68.030, last amended by Amended Ordinance No. 04-059 on July 28, 2004, is amended to read:

3.68.030 Selection of exempt positions and personnel.

- (1) Each elected official shall designate the position or positions the official selects as exempt in accordance with SCC 3.68.010, in writing, which writing the official shall file with the council and executive. Each elected official shall designate the person selected to fill each exempt position designated, as provided herein in writing, which writing the official shall file with the council and executive. No elected official shall designate or appoint any spouse or relative, as defined in SCC 3A.12.050, to an exempt position, and, in the event such spouse or relative has been so designated or appointed, such designation or appointment shall be null and void, except where otherwise provided by law. Otherwise, such designation is irrevocable until such person leaves, or is dismissed from, or transfers from the position designated as exempt, or unless such position is transferred to the classified service.
- (2) The deputy department heads, division directors, and division managers of executive and administrative departments shall be appointed by the department head, subject to the following:
- (a) In making an appointment the department head shall consider the applicant's qualifications, integrity and prior experience which are applicable to the duties of the office to which appointment is to be made.
- (b) An applicant shall not be appointed to a position which is supervised by any spouse or relative of the applicant, as the term "relative" is defined in SCC 3A.12.050. The appointment of any employee to an exempt position supervised by any spouse or relative of that employee shall be null and void.
- (c) Employees appointed to exempt positions prior to April 1, 1982 shall not be required to be re-appointed by way of the procedures provided in SCC 3.68.030(2) but shall serve in that position until that person leaves or is dismissed from the position, provided that the exempt employee is not supervised by a spouse or relative as defined in SCC 3A.12.050.
- (3) Heads of executive and administrative departments shall be appointed by the executive and confirmed by the council on the basis of abilities, qualifications, integrity and prior experience which are applicable to the duties of the office to which the appointment is to be made. No such department head

 shall be appointed or serve under the supervision of a spouse or relative, as that term is defined in SCC 3A.12.050.

- (4) The superior court commissioners authorized by SCC 2.14.010 shall be appointed by the superior court judges or as otherwise provided by law.
- (5) For purposes of this section, an employee shall be deemed to supervise another employee if the supervisory employee, as a regular matter, has the authority to hire, assign, promote, transfer, layoff, recall, suspend, discipline or discharge the other employee or to evaluate the performance of the other employee.
- (6) The prohibition against the appointment and service of an employee who is a spouse or relative of the appointing elected official or of his or her supervisor shall apply to any exempt employee who is appointed to an exempt position on or after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section and shall not apply to any employee appointed to the exempt service prior to the effective date of said ordinance.
- (7) The law and justice cabinet FTE provided for in SCC 3.68.010(14) shall be appointed by simply majority vote of the following elected officials or their designees acting on behalf of the law and justice cabinet: the county executive, chair of the council law and justice/human services committee, director of corrections, presiding judges of the superior and district courts, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, and superior court clerk.
- (8) The performance auditor shall be appointed as set out in SCC 2.700.010.

Section 16. Snohomish County Code Section 3.68.040, last amended by Amended Ordinance No. 04-059 on July 28, 2004, is amended to read:

3.68.040 Termination of exempt employment.

- (1) An exempt employee, with the exception of the hearing examiner and any deputy examiners selected and appointed pursuant to SCC 2.02.030 and 2.02.040 and the performance auditor appointed pursuant to SCC 2.700.010, shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority and may be removed for any reason. Removal of an examiner shall be governed by ((the provisions of)) SCC 2.02.050. Removal of the performance auditor shall be governed by SCC 2.700.010.
- (2) An employee holding regular status in the personnel system or civil service who was appointed to an exempt position between April 1, 1982 and August 9, 2004, upon termination of the exempt appointment, shall be eligible to return to the same or like position in any class in which regular status was held prior to exempt appointment, PROVIDED That:
- (a) Such eligibility shall only extend to an existing position with the department or its equivalent in which regular status was held by the exempt employee prior to holding an exempt position.

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AUDITING, IMPLEMENTING CHARTER SECTION 2.150, ETC. - 11

THE OFFICE OF COUNTY PERFORMANCE AUDITOR. TERMINATING THE AUDITOR'S DIVISION OF PERFORMANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 07-049 RELATING TO PERFORMANCE AUDITS, ESTABLISHING

(3) Section 3 of this ordinance terminates the Division of Performance Auditing created by Amended Ordinance No. 97-061. other county offices and departments are authorized to take all actions necessary to enable the Office of County Performance Auditor to commence functioning within the legislative branch on July 1, 2007. (5) The Division of Performance Auditing created by Amended Ordinance No. 97-061 employs staff of 0.5 FTE classified as Management Auditor, Spec. No. 2189. The person employed in that position when this ordinance takes effect shall have the option of leaving county employment or accepting appointment to the position of

Management Auditor in the Office of County Performance Auditor at a pay range and step to be determined by the County Council. If the employee accepts the appointment,

the employee shall have the option of remaining a classified employee governed by

Title 3A SCC or becoming an exempt employee governed by Title 3.68 SCC, as

(4) The County Council, County Auditor, Department of Human Resources, and

(2) The annual audit plan established under 2.700.030 prior to the effective date County Council.

of Section 5 of this ordinance shall remain in effect until rescinded or amended by the

Section 17. Transition. (1) This ordinance shall not affect the composition of the Performance Auditing Committee as established under SCC 2.700.040 prior to the effective date of this ordinance. The name of the committee shall be changed to the Performance Audit Committee as provided in this ordinance.

this section are not granted because his retention would not be in the best interests of the county, the employee may appeal such decision to the grievance board or civil service board, as appropriate. The decision of either board shall be binding.

(b) Termination of the exempt appointment was for reasons other than for cause.

(c) Where return of the exempt employee shall displace another

employee, a layoff shall be declared subject to applicable layoff rules.

(d) Time spent in the exempt service shall be included in seniority computations.

(3) An exempt employee shall not exercise rights over any other employee occupying a position in Snohomish county except as provided by this

section. This section shall not apply where prohibited by collective bargaining contract. (4) Transfer of an exempt employee to an existing or new vacancy not previously held is permitted under subsection (2) of this section, subject to the

availability of funds and provided the employee meets the minimum requirements for the classification. In all such cases, the exempt employee will be required to complete a probationary period before being granted regular status in the

(5) Where the exempt employee's return rights under subsection (2) of

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26 27 provided in Section 14 of this ordinance. The employee shall have 10 days from the date the employee is informed of the Council's determination of the pay range and step to notify the Chief of Staff in writing of the employee's decisions under this paragraph. Failure to timely do so shall terminate the employment relationship. All other appointments to the Office of County Performance Auditor shall be made as provided in this ordinance. Section 18. Sunset. Chapter 2.700 of the Snohomish County Code, as amended by this ordinance or after the effective date of this ordinance, is repealed, effective on the date six years following enactment unless re-enacted prior to that date as provided in Snohomish County Charter Section 2.115.

Section 19. Effective dates. Sections 1 through 16 and 18 of this ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2007. Section 17 shall take effect ten days after this ordinance is signed by the County Executive or otherwise enacted, as provided in Charter Section 2.110.

PASSED this 6th day of June, 2007.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL Snohomish County, Washington Cháirperson

ATTEST: Asst. Clerk of the Council

(X) APPROVED

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Approved as to form only:

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

MARK SOINE **Deputy Executive**

County Executive

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