



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 24, 2020

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COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL OPPOSES KING COUNTY'S PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Covington, WA – At the Tuesday, Sept. 22 meeting, Covington City Council unanimously passed resolutions opposing King County Charter Amendments No. 5 and No. 6 related to making changes to the organization and duties of the King County Sheriff.

The King County Council placed two measures on the November ballot related to the Sheriff position. King County Charter Amendment No. 5 involves reverting to an appointed sheriff as opposed to an elected one and King County Charter Amendment No. 6 would allow King County to determine the duties of the sheriff.

On Tuesday, Covington City Council voted 7-0 in favor passing a resolution to oppose King County Charter Amendment No. 5, which proposes to return the position of King County sheriff to an appointed position with a requirement for consideration of community stakeholder input during the selection process and to make the county executive responsible for bargaining working conditions with the department of public safety's represented employees

"Having an elected sheriff, to me, makes them more accountable to the people," said councilmember Joe Cimaomo when he explained his reasons for opposing the ballot measure.

Covington City Council also voted 7-0 in favor of passing a resolution to oppose King County Charter Amendment No. 6, which proposes the charter would be amended so that the duties of the county sheriff and the structure and duties of the department of public safety are established by county ordinance and the county executive is responsible for bargaining working conditions with the department of public safety's represented employees. It would also replace the establishment of the sheriff's duties from state statute (Chapter 36.28 RCW) to rules written by the King County Council.

"I don't believe King County has the contract cities in mind," said councilmember Jared Koukal when speaking in opposition to this ballot measure.

The resolutions opposing the ballot measures state that the City Council of the City of Covington believes that the approval of King County Charter Amendment No. 5 and No. 6 are not in the best interests of the citizens of Covington.

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