

CITY OF GIG HARBOR

RESOLUTION NO. 297

A RESOLUTION REGARDING GROWTH MANAGEMENT.

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor wants to promote orderly and environmentally sensitive growth; and

WHEREAS, the 1990 Legislature enacted the state's first comprehensive Growth Management Act (the Act) to guide and integrate local land use, transportation, capital facilities, and economic development planning; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes cities/counties to charge development impact fees; and

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the diversity of growth management challenges facing Washington's large, urban, small, and rural cities/counties and establishes distinct planning requirements for all cities/counties that vary depending upon population and growth rates; and

WHEREAS, the Act maintains local control and encourages local jurisdictions to coordinate their planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, the legislation constitutes a positive step in an evolving state growth management strategy that will be expanded with additional citizen input, experiences from jurisdictions involved in implementation of the Act, and the recommendations of the Governor and his Growth Strategies Commission; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 547 has been put forth that outlines a different approach to growth management; and

WHEREAS, this Initiative creates a new state agency granted authority over local land use decisions; and

WHEREAS, this Initiative establishes a dangerous precedent of requiring local budgeting and land use plans be in compliance with planning goals that do not allow local plans a chance to update to meet these goals; and

WHEREAS, its passage could potentially invalidate numerous environmental protection, transportation, and growth management tools provided to cities during the 1990 Legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the Initiative would discourage efficient growth in urban areas by not providing adequate provisions to accommodate projected growth and, as written, would encourage urban sprawl by permitting development on 2.5 acres parcels throughout rural areas; and

WHEREAS, this Initiative does not adequately recognize planning and economic development distinctions characterized by the diversity of Washington's 268 cities and 39 counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Gig Harbor strongly endorses the thrust of the Growth Management Act of 1990 as an essential and responsible series of planning and interlocal coordination measures that as implemented, will help direct community, regional, and statewide efforts to enhance Washington's quality of life, environmental protection, and economic vitality;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Gig Harbor:

1. Opposes the creation of state-level agencies or panels with limited and selective memberships, such as stipulated in Initiative 547, which are empowered to review and approve or disapprove the substance of local comprehensive plans and associated development regulations; and
2. Opposes Initiative 547 because it will further delay implementation of Growth Management policies and regulations in the fastest growing jurisdictions by altering timelines and local activities now underway to implement the Act and threatens to invalidate other environmental protection, transportation, and growth management tools granted to cities during the 1990 Legislative session; and
3. Opposes Initiative 547 because it subjects every local land use and capital budget decision to unnecessary legal litigation; and

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4. Opposes Initiative 547 and its statewide mandatory planning provisions which would establish the same planning requirements in all cities, regardless of size, location, and growth rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Gig Harbor supports the continued efforts of the Washington Growth Commission to further strengthen the Act through its recommendations.

PASSED this 22nd day of October, 1990.


Gretchen A. Wilbert, Mayor

ATTEST:


Michael R. Wilson
City Administrator/Clerk

Filed with city clerk: 10/18/90
Passed by city council: 10/22/90