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6 **RESOLUTION NO. R2008-186**

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9 **An Emergency Resolution of the Pierce County Council Adopting**
10 **Procedures for Filling Vacancies in Nonpartisan Pierce**
11 **County Elective Offices and Declaring an Emergency.**

12
13 **Whereas**, pursuant to Section 4.70 of the Pierce County Charter, the Council
14 shall fill vacancies in certain elective County offices by appointment; and

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16 **Whereas**, in November 2007, the voters of Pierce County adopted amendments
17 to the Charter making the elected Assessor-Treasurer, Auditor and Sheriff nonpartisan
18 positions; and

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20 **Whereas**, pursuant to Section 8.50 of the Charter, amendments to the Charter
21 adopted by the voters become effective ten days after the election is certified unless a
22 later date is specified; and

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24 **Whereas**, in the case of the Charter amendments making the offices of Auditor,
25 Assessor-Treasurer and Sheriff nonpartisan, no later effective date was specified; and

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27 **Whereas**, there is no state statute, Pierce County Charter Section, or Pierce
28 County Code granting any entity other than the Pierce County Council the authority to
29 select or limit nominees for appointment to a vacancy in a nonpartisan office; and

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31 **Whereas**, Pierce County officials holding Pierce County nonpartisan offices are,
32 by definition, not affiliated with any political party while holding that office; and

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34 **Whereas**, political parties have authority to limit appointments to elective office to
35 party nominees only in instances where there is a vacancy in a partisan, as opposed to
36 a nonpartisan, elective office; and

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38 **Whereas**, the method for filling a vacancy in a nonpartisan office is set forth in
39 RCW 36.16.110 and requires the County Council to appoint a qualified person at its
40 next regular or special meeting after being appraised of the vacancy; and

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42 **Whereas**, the process set forth in Section 2. of this Resolution is consistent with
43 Pierce County's Charter, the Pierce County Code, and RCW 36.16.110; and

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45 **Whereas**, in order to facilitate an orderly and fair appointment process, the
46 Council deems it necessary to adopt procedures for filling vacancies in nonpartisan,
47 elective offices; and



1 | obtained at Pierce County's Personnel Office, on the County's WebPage, or in the
2 | Office of the County Council.) The appointment process shall commence upon the
3 | announced deadline for submitting applications.

4 | An Ad Hoc Committee will be selected by the Chair of the Council to review all
5 | applications received, and agree upon up to three names of qualified candidates for
6 | each vacancy. The selected names shall be submitted to the Pierce County Council.

7 | The Council will conduct interviews in a meeting open to the public, and may
8 | convene in Executive Session to discuss the qualifications of the candidates. The
9 | Appointment shall be made by adoption of a Resolution of the Council in a public
10 | meeting, following all applicable rules and requirements.

11 | Questions about this procedure may be directed to the Chair of the Council or the
12 | Council's Administrator for Legal and Operations at 253-798-7777.

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14 | **ADOPTED** this 9th day of December, 2008.

15 |
16 | ATTEST:

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL
Pierce County, Washington

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18 |
19 | *Patricia L. Force, for*

20 |
21 | **Denise D. Johnson**
22 | Clerk of the Council

[Signature] for

23 | **Terry Lee**
Council Chair