

**ORDINANCE NO. 770**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, REGARDING COLLECTION OF DEBTS OWED TO THE CITY, PROVIDING THAT THE COSTS OF COLLECTION, INCLUDING COLLECTION AGENCY COSTS, SHALL BE ADDED TO THE AMOUNT OF ANY DEBTS OWED TO THE CITY, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 3.48.030 TO THE GIG HARBOR MUNICIPAL CODE.**

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WHEREAS, RCW 19.16.500 has authorized cities to assign the collection of any debts owed to the city to a collection agency; and

WHEREAS, a new subsection was added to RCW 19.15.500 by the 1997 Washington State Legislature permitting the costs involved in the collection of debts through the use of a collection agency to be added to and included in the debt to be paid by the debtor; and

WHEREAS, it is prudent and appropriate that the City Council authorize that the costs of collection of debts through collection agencies be added to the debt assigned to a collection agency by the City; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor, Washington as follows:

Section 1. A new section 3.48.030 is hereby added to the Gig Harbor Municipal Code to read as follows:

3.48.030 Collection Costs Recoverable. In all instances where the City assigns to a collection agency for a collection of any debt owed to the city, including but not limited to past due utility charges, fines, assessments, and permit and license fees and charges, the costs involved in the collection of the debt through use of the collection agency are costs that shall be added to and included in the debt to be paid by the debtor.

Section 2. - Effective Date. This ordinance, being an exercise of a power specifically delegated to the City legislative body, is not subject to referendum. This ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after passage of publication of an approved summary thereof consisting of the title.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Gig Harbor City Council this 13th day of October, 1997.

APPROVED:

MAYOR, GRETCHEN A. WILBERT

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

CITY CLERK, MOLLY M. TOWSLEE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 9/17/97  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 10/13/97  
PUBLISHED: 10/15/97  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/20/97  
ORDINANCE NO. 770

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 770**

of the City of Gig Harbor, Washington

On the 13th day of October, 1997, the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor, passed Ordinance No. 770. A summary of the content of said ordinance, consisting of the title, provides as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, REGARDING COLLECTION OF DEBTS OWED TO THE CITY, PROVIDING THAT THE COSTS OF COLLECTION, INCLUDING COLLECTION AGENCY COSTS, SHALL BE ADDED TO THE AMOUNT OF ANY DEBTS OWED TO THE CITY, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 3.48.030 TO THE GIG HARBOR MUNICIPAL CODE.**

The full text of this Ordinance will be mailed upon request.

DATED this 14th day of October, 1997.

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CITY CLERK, MOLLY M. TOWSLEE