



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 16, 2015

Motion 14378

Proposed No. 2015-0162.1

Sponsors Dembowski

1 A MOTION adopting a youth action plan for King County.

2 WHEREAS, since the 1960s, King County has participated in and funded
3 programs aimed at assisting children and youth, including, but not limited to, distribution
4 of federal funding, as well as local programming and funding, and

5 WHEREAS, in 2013, the county spent more than \$162 million in funding from all
6 sources on a wide range of services and programs that influence youth at all stages of
7 development, from birth to young adult, and

8 WHEREAS, the services and programs for youth and children are provided
9 across King County government by nine departments and agencies that contract with
10 dozens of community-based organizations and local nonprofit organizations who, in turn,
11 work in collaboration with each other, the county and other governments to serve
12 children, youth and their families, and

13 WHEREAS, in January 2014, the King County council and executive enacted
14 Ordinance 17738, which called for the development of a Youth Action Plan to set King
15 County's priorities for serving its young people, from infants through young adults, and

16 WHEREAS, a twenty-five-member Youth Action Plan task force, comprised of
17 representatives of a broad range of organizations and entities with substantial expertise
18 and knowledge relevant to children and youth, in addition to diversity in views and
19 experiences, was appointed to develop the Youth Action Plan, and

20 WHEREAS, Ordinance 17738 charged the Youth Action Plan task force members
21 with responding to the following topics:

22 1. Identification of the mission and vision of the Youth Action Plan, and whether
23 the executive's stated vision that "infants reach adulthood healthy and safe, academically
24 and vocationally succeeding, and socially and civically engaged" reflects the
25 recommendations of the task force;

26 2. A bill of rights for King County's youth, akin to the youth bills of rights
27 adopted by jurisdictions in California and elsewhere around the country;

28 3. Whether King County should establish a single point of accountability for
29 children and youth services, programs and policies, along with recommendations on what
30 form, model or structure that point of accountability should take, and on its role and
31 duties;

32 4. Identification of what age range the Youth Action Plan will address, and
33 whether families are included in the plan;

34 5. Identification of improvements, efficiencies, gaps and opportunities to take
35 promising practices to scale, along with areas for better integration or coordination of
36 services, programs and policies for children and youth within and outside of King County
37 government;

38 6. Recommendations on King County's role and involvement with early
39 childhood learning programs and initiatives;

40 7. Identification of the barriers within and outside of King County government
41 that prevent children, youth and families from realizing their full potential, and
42 recommendations on how to eliminate those barriers;

43 8. Recommendations on the update to the King County Strategic Plan, and on
44 social justice and equity goals, as related to youth;

45 9. Identification of the children, youth and family programs, methodologies and
46 service models that the county should prioritize to achieve outcomes and meet policy
47 goals;

48 10. Recommendations on King County's funding of services and programs for
49 youth, including the prioritization of existing and potential new resources to achieve
50 recommended outcomes; and

51 11. Identification of an evaluation and reporting structure, process and
52 implementation timeline for the Youth Action Plan, and

53 WHEREAS, throughout the process, the Youth Action Plan task force was
54 supported by a team that included King County government staff, and

55 WHEREAS, to guide its work throughout the process of developing the Youth
56 Action Plan, the Youth Action Plan task force identified the following three principles:

57 1. The well-being of children and families and youth and young adults should not
58 be predicted by their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, geography,
59 income or immigration status;

60 2. Youth policy development, services, and programming should intentionally
61 include diverse youth/youth voices in authentic and meaningful ways; and

62 3. Policy development, services and programming should intentionally
63 incorporate voices of the people impacted by the policies and services in authentic and
64 meaningful ways, and

65 WHEREAS, to assist the Youth Action Plan task force in its work, King County
66 staff gathered data from all King County agencies and departments that might serve
67 children, youth and their families to compile a detailed inventory of the programs and
68 services provided by the county in 2013 for children, youth and their families, and

69 WHEREAS, the Youth Action Plan task force reviewed that data to gain a big-
70 picture understanding of King County's investments in children, youth and their families,
71 and

72 WHEREAS, the ordinance called for the Youth Action Plan to be developed
73 transparently, collaboratively and strategically, in partnership with children and youth
74 serving community providers, consumers, philanthropy, separately elected officials
75 including the council, other jurisdictions and school districts, and

76 WHEREAS, the Youth Action Plan task force fulfilled that goal of working
77 transparently, collaboratively and strategically by planning and executing a community
78 and youth outreach strategy that included holding five community conversations,
79 attended by more than two hundred twenty-five community members, in locations across
80 the county to hear from community members about the issues and barriers facing the
81 county's youth and to identify opportunities and solutions, and

82 WHEREAS, because the county is a widely diverse county and all citizen voices
83 needed to be welcomed and heard, interpretation services were made available at each of
84 the community conversations, with the goal of providing all community members who
85 attended the ability to participate in the process, and

86 WHEREAS, although youth attended and participated in the community
87 conversations, the Youth Action Plan task force also conducted a youth survey to

88 understand the most pressing issues facing twelve-to-twenty-four-year-olds in the county
89 and to identify strategies for the county to increase meaningful youth engagement, and

90 WHEREAS, youth participated in the development and dissemination of the
91 survey, which was completed and returned by more than one thousand youth, and

92 WHEREAS, the Youth Action Plan submitted as an attachment to this motion
93 reflects that outreach to community members, youth, county departments, non-
94 government entities and organizations and other jurisdictions, as well as the knowledge
95 and expertise of the Youth Action Plan task force members, and

96 WHEREAS, the Youth Action Plan task force revised an earlier vision statement
97 relating to the county's work serving children and youth by incorporating equity into the
98 statement and emphasizing current as well as future success for children and youth, and

99 WHEREAS, the vision plan of the Youth Action Plan is that "King County is a
100 place where everyone has equitable opportunities to progress through childhood safe and
101 healthy, building academic and life skills to be thriving members of their community,"
102 and

103 WHEREAS, in addition to the work outlined in Ordinance 17738, representatives
104 of the Youth Action Plan task force also served on the leadership circle convened by the
105 Executive to assist in the development of the 2015 Best Starts for Kids initiative, a
106 prevention-oriented regional plan that will be aimed at supporting the healthy
107 development of children and youth, families and communities across the county, and

108 WHEREAS, the Youth Action Plan contains recommendations relating to the
109 following nine areas:

110 1. Social Justice and Equity;

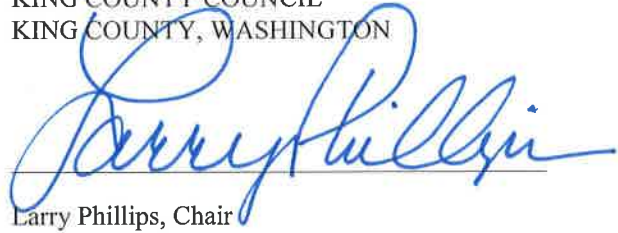
- 111 2. Strengthen and Stabilize Families, and Children, Youth and Young Adults;
- 112 3. Stop the School to Prison Pipeline;
- 113 4. Bust Siloes/We're Better Together;
- 114 5. Get Smart About Data;
- 115 6. Invest Early, Invest Often, Invest in Outcomes;
- 116 7. Accountability;
- 117 8. Youth Bill of Rights; and
- 118 9. Evaluation and Reporting/Process and Implementation Timeline;
- 119 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

120 The Youth Action Plan for King County, Attachment A to this motion, is hereby
121 adopted.
122

Motion 14378 was introduced on 4/20/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/15/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Mr. von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. King County Youth Action Plan