



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 12, 2016

Motion 14680

Proposed No. 2016-0318.2

Sponsors Kohl-Welles and Gossett

1 A MOTION directing the clerk of the council to develop
2 options for how to apply gender-neutral references
3 throughout the King County Code.

4 WHEREAS, the King County Code was mostly created in the 1970s and 1980s,
5 though some provisions date back to at least the 1940s. Since the creation of the code, it
6 has been subject to many amendments each year, and

7 WHEREAS, to align with the county's equity and social justice principles,
8 gender-specific language should be corrected because it can reflect a bias for or against
9 certain persons, and

10 WHEREAS, gender-specific language can also reflect biases, which are
11 detrimental to well-written and effective law, and

12 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 1.03.120, which was enacted in 2000, requires that
13 ordinances and motions be drafted prospectively in gender-neutral terms, and the council
14 has amended the code to use gender-neutral terms to comply with that requirement, and

15 WHEREAS, because the council's efforts to update the code have depended on
16 whatever other amendments are proposed, the progress made on creating a fully gender-
17 neutral code has been slow, and

18 WHEREAS, the Washington state Legislature, in Chapter 218, Laws of
19 Washington 2007, gave similar direction to the state's Office of the Code Reviser to

20 develop and implement a plan make technical changes to the Revised Code of
21 Washington to apply gender-neutral references throughout the Revised Code of
22 Washington, and set a timeline for completion of the revision;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

24 A. It is the intent of the council that the King County Code be updated to use
25 gender-neutral language.

26 B. The clerk of the council, in consultation with the executive branch and
27 separately elected officials, is directed to develop options for how to apply gender-neutral
28 references throughout the King County Code. The options should reflect consideration of
29 the practical implications of updating the code and should include a timeline for
30 completing the update and an estimate of the cost and staff time for each option. One of

31 the options shall be performing the update within existing staff resources. The clerk
32 should present the options to the council for approval no later than September 30, 2016.
33

Motion 14680 was introduced on 7/5/2016 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 7/11/2016, by the following vote:

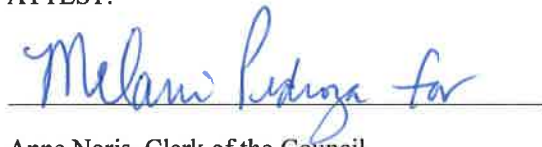
Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None