



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 31, 2018**

**Motion 15199**

**Proposed No. 2018-0275.3**

**Sponsors** Dunn, Kohl-Welles, McDermott,  
Balducci and Upthegrove

1           A MOTION requesting the executive to implement a Stop  
2           Human Trafficking public awareness campaign in  
3           partnership with the city of Seattle and the Port of Seattle.

4           WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of exploitation in which people and  
5           groups profit from the control of others, and

6           WHEREAS, as defined under state and federal law, victims of human trafficking  
7           include children involved in commercial sex trade, adults age eighteen or over who are  
8           forced, coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts and anyone forced into different  
9           forms of "labor or services," such as domestic workers held in a home or farm workers  
10          forced to labor against their will, and

11          WHEREAS, human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing  
12          criminal industries worldwide, and an ongoing problem in the Puget Sound region, and

13          WHEREAS, King County has long been a hotspot in the international trafficking  
14          of persons, due to our region's proximity to ports, major agricultural industry, shared  
15          international border with Canada, Sea-Tac International Airport and access to Interstate 5  
16          along the Pacific coast states from Mexico, and

17          WHEREAS, Washington has been a national leader since 2002 in enacting state  
18          laws to combat human trafficking in all its forms. Washington was the first state to  
19          criminalize human trafficking, in 2003 and has since passed over forty laws addressing

20 aspects of trafficking, such as labor trafficking, bride trafficking, stiffer penalties for  
21 commercial sexual abuse of minors and required training for teachers on how to  
22 recognize and prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of minors, and

23 WHEREAS, in 2013 the Washington state Legislature established both the  
24 Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Committee to  
25 recommend ways to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children and the  
26 Statewide Coordinating Committee on Sex Trafficking to oversee the distribution of  
27 funds collected from trafficking crimes to services for victims and survivors of the sex  
28 trade, and

29 WHEREAS, in 2015 the Washington state Legislature reestablished and  
30 strengthened the Washington State Task Force on the Trafficking of Persons and  
31 authorized the Department of Commerce Office of Crime Victims Advocacy to develop  
32 and maintain an information clearinghouse to share and coordinate statewide efforts to  
33 combat the trafficking of persons and provide training for law enforcement, prosecutors  
34 and court personnel on Washington's antitrafficking laws and the investigation and  
35 adjudication of sex trafficking, and

36 WHEREAS, grants from the Department of Commerce Office of Crime Victims  
37 Advocacy support direct service to individuals impacted by human trafficking,  
38 individuals at risk and outreach aimed at lowering barriers to services and increasing  
39 access, and

40 WHEREAS, since human trafficking is a clandestine crime that thrives on secrecy  
41 and on the social and physical isolation of its victims and survivors, making identification  
42 of victims, survivors, traffickers and their networks extremely challenging, and

43           WHEREAS, experts, community organizations and nonprofit organizations  
44 recommend strategies such as educating Washington communities about human  
45 trafficking, providing resources to implement antitrafficking strategies and helping  
46 victims escape their situations, and

47           WHEREAS, one significant tool for bringing human trafficking into the open is  
48 utilizing the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline that connects callers,  
49 law enforcement, services and information about the crime of human trafficking, and

50           WHEREAS, posting information on human trafficking and hotline phone  
51 numbers in high visibility locations increases awareness and the chances that incidents of  
52 human trafficking will be reported, victims will be identified and provided access to  
53 services and traffickers will be prosecuted, and

54           WHEREAS, it is recommended that information and hotline phone numbers  
55 should be posted in venues, such as truck stops, bus stations, transit or train stations,  
56 airports, rest stops, hotels, motels, clubs, bars, farms, schools, colleges, universities,  
57 hospitals, clinics, jails, police stations and shelters, in an effort to target locations where  
58 trafficking victims and survivors may see the information, and

59           WHEREAS, for victims and survivors of human trafficking, the public posting of  
60 information and hotline phone numbers in locations where the information may be seen is  
61 critical, as they might not otherwise have access to the Internet or to other forms of  
62 community-based outreach and awareness programs, and

63           WHEREAS, for community members, calls to the hotline often generate future  
64 tips and a better understanding of the red-flag indicators of human trafficking, and

65           WHEREAS, in 2010 the Washington state Legislature authorized antitrafficking

66 posters to be placed in each Department of Transportation rest stop. In 2015, the  
67 Legislature built on the success of the rest stop posters by authorizing the Department of  
68 Commerce Office of Crime Victims Assistance to work with the business community and  
69 with antitrafficking stakeholders to develop new antitrafficking notices that will be  
70 available to any business that has a public restroom, and

71 WHEREAS, in 2013 and 2015 King County in collaboration with community  
72 partners conducted a public campaign to raise awareness on human trafficking, using  
73 advertisements on Metro buses, billboards, radio and television designed to educate the  
74 public and inform victims and survivors that assistance is available, and

75 WHEREAS, during the King County public outreach campaigns, the number of  
76 calls to the National Hotline from Washington increased significantly, and

77 WHEREAS, the city of Seattle is committed to ending human trafficking. The  
78 Seattle Police Department has a full-time human trafficking investigator and part-time  
79 civilian employee to respond to and investigates complaints of human trafficking. The  
80 commander of this detail is co-chair of the Washington Advisory Committee on  
81 Trafficking, and

82 WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle has long been active on efforts to combat human  
83 trafficking taking place at its facilities and throughout the region, and whereas the Port of  
84 Seattle Commission on January 9, 2018, passed a motion directing staff to implement a  
85 new comprehensive, Port-wide antitrafficking strategy that includes, among other tactics,  
86 the development of a trafficking awareness campaign, and

87 WHEREAS, many of the successful strategies from earlier public awareness  
88 campaigns can be deployed again, and

89 WHEREAS, the region grew by 86,320 people from 2015 to 2016, the biggest  
90 population gain in the century and the highest growth rate in the past twenty years, and

91 WHEREAS, the region's population is expected to continue to experience  
92 significant growth which is likely to increase demand for human trafficking, and

93 WHEREAS, a combined outreach campaign among the city of Seattle, the Port of  
94 Seattle and King County would leverage the expansive community connections of all  
95 three jurisdictions to significantly expand the reach of the public awareness campaign and  
96 maximize efficient use of public resources;

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

98 A. The executive is requested to convene a workgroup to implement a Stop  
99 Human Trafficking public awareness campaign. The workgroup shall be convened by  
100 September 10, 2018, and jointly led by staff from the city of Seattle, the Port of Seattle,  
101 King County and subject matter experts. For King County, the workgroup shall include  
102 staff from public health Seattle and King County, the transit division, the department of  
103 community and human services, the prosecutor's office and the sheriff's office.

104 B. The public awareness campaign shall have three goals:

105 1. Raise public awareness about the nature of human trafficking, how and where  
106 it occurs locally, and how to prevent and stop it;

107 2. Help identify victims and survivors and promote access to services; and

108 3. Decrease demand through awareness.

109 C. The campaign shall focus placement of human trafficking public awareness  
110 materials in city of Seattle, the Port of Seattle and King County facilities, and other  
111 locations where public awareness of human trafficking may have the greatest impact.

112 D. The workgroup shall consider opportunities to distribute information through  
113 city of Seattle, the Port of Seattle and King County websites and social media accounts.

114 E. The workgroup shall seek to use public service advertising resources for  
115 placement of human trafficking awareness materials on city of Seattle, King County and  
116 Sound Transit buses, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys, street cars and transit centers and  
117 stations where public awareness of human trafficking may have the greatest impact.

118 F. The workgroup shall to the extent feasible use successful strategies from the  
119 2013 and 2015 outreach campaigns and utilize existing anti-human-trafficking outreach  
120 materials, to the extent that is legally permissible.

121 G. The selection and placement of the materials should be done in collaboration  
122 with subject matter experts. The following departments and divisions from King County  
123 shall participate: the transit division; the department of community and human services;  
124 and public health - Seattle & King County. The King County prosecutor's office and the  
125 King County superior court are encouraged to participate.

126 H. The workgroup shall explore partnership opportunities with public and private  
127 entities external to the city of Seattle, the Port of Seattle and King County for posting  
128 trafficking public awareness materials in locations where trafficked individuals and the  
129 public may see the information, including, but not limited to, hospitals, schools,  
130 community health clinics, shelters and along major thoroughfares.

131 I. The human trafficking public information materials used in the campaign shall  
132 be accessible in multiple languages and should include contact information for the  
133 National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline.

134 J. The executive is requested to transmit to the council by September 21, 2019, a

135 list of the facilities that displayed the materials and their locations throughout King  
136 County and the electronic outreach done as part of the human trafficking public  
137 awareness strategy, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy filed with the

138 clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all  
139 councilmembers.  
140

Motion 15199 was introduced on 6/11/2018 and passed as amended by the  
Metropolitan King County Council on 7/30/2018, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph McDermott", written over a horizontal line.

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melani Pedroza", written over a horizontal line.

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None