



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

January 30, 2018

Ordinance 18653

Proposed No. 2017-0481.1

Sponsors Gossett, Kohl-Welles, Dembowski
and Balducci

1 AN ORDINANCE related to the establishment of a King
2 County immigrant and refugee commission; and adding a
3 new chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

5 1. On November 10, 2009, the council committed to provide county
6 services to all residents, irrespective of immigrant status by adopting
7 Ordinance 16692, prohibiting the county's office, department, employee,
8 agency or agent to use citizenship or immigration status of any individual
9 from conditioning provision of county services and also prohibiting the
10 sheriff's office from requesting specific documents relating to a person's
11 civil immigration status for the sole purpose of determining whether the
12 individual has violated federal civil immigration laws.

13 2. On October 11, 2010, Ordinance 16948, also referred to as the "Equity
14 and Social Justice Ordinance," was enacted establishing equity and social
15 justice from an initiative to an integrated effort that intentionally applies
16 the countywide strategic plan's principle of "fair and just" in all the county
17 does in order to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and
18 communities.

19 3. On June 30, 2014, the executive transmitted a report that included

20 analysis, recommendations, and an action plan to increase access to
21 Limited English Proficiency ("LEP") populations as required by the
22 council through a 2014 budget proviso, in Ordinance 17695, Section 18,
23 Proviso P3. The report evaluated outreach strategies that can be used to
24 engage LEP populations, pros and cons for developing centralized
25 resources and strategies to coordinate translation efforts and other service
26 categories across all departments, agencies and offices.

27 4. On July 21, 2015, Ordinance 18085 was enacted directing the
28 executive to convene a task force to develop a final report with
29 recommendations on the creation of an immigrant and refugee
30 commission.

31 5. The members of the task force were appointed in October 2015 and, as
32 required by Ordinance 18085, as amended, the task force was comprised
33 of thirteen representatives from organizations and entities with deep roots
34 in immigrant and refugee communities and who possess significant
35 expertise in issues facing these populations in the county. Task force
36 members represented a range of sectors, experiences and perspectives
37 reflecting the diversity of the communities, organizations including faith-
38 based organizations, businesses and government agencies actively
39 engaged with immigrants and refugees.

40 6. As required by Ordinance 18085, as amended, the task force was
41 tasked with the following:

42 a. to provide recommendation on commission's membership, mission

43 and scope of duties;

44 b. to provide recommendation on commission's alignment with other
45 regional and local efforts, and relationship with the county's office of
46 equity and social justice;

47 c. to evaluate how the county's current provision of services addresses
48 immigrant and refugee resident needs, helps to move low-income
49 immigrant and refugee populations towards economic success, what gaps
50 currently exist in the provision of county services for immigrants and
51 refugees that create barriers to success, and a commission's potential role
52 in addressing gaps;

53 d. to consult with county agencies to learn how different agencies
54 address equity and social justice in the delivery of their services to
55 immigrants and refugees;

56 e. to consider how needs of immigrant and refugee populations differ in
57 high density urban area, lower density suburban areas, and lowest density
58 rural unincorporated areas and develop recommendations for how a
59 commission can address those differences within the commission's
60 mission and scope of duties;

61 f. to provide recommendation on the role of the commission on
62 implementation of the recommendations as provided in the 2014 Adopted
63 Budget Proviso Report on Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations;
64 and

65 g. to conduct outreach activities including open public forums and

66 actively soliciting written, electronic, or oral community comments to
67 obtain community input.

68 7. As required by Ordinance 18085, as amended, the task force met from
69 October 2015 through June 2016, and was supported by a project team of
70 county staff as well as two external consultants. The task force divided
71 into three subgroups to address major requirements outlined in the
72 ordinance, and conducted more than twenty community meetings with
73 feedback and input from over five hundred community members of
74 immigrant and refugee communities to gather input on challenges faced by
75 immigrants and refugees and their thoughts on possible solutions.

76 8. On July 8, 2016, the task force presented its final report, entitled
77 Advancing Equity and Opportunity for King County Immigrants and
78 Refugees: A Report from the King County Immigrant and Refugee Task
79 Force (Report 2016-RPT0107), to the council.

80 9. Based on the findings and recommendation of the task force, it is in the
81 public interest that an immigrant and refugee commission be formed to
82 enhance the integration of immigrants and refugees culturally,
83 economically and civically, in order to strengthen the communities where
84 they live and to support them to become part of the fabric of society, by
85 having the tools they need to thrive and succeed while maintaining their
86 own identities.

87 10. On April 28, 2017, Ordinance 18499 was enacted appropriating
88 \$750,000 to address issues affecting the immigrant and refugee

89 communities, which included: providing culturally specific support
90 services; shoring up funding for the Resilience Fund, which is a
91 collaborative with the Seattle Foundation, the city of Seattle and other
92 organizations to provide timely, flexible funding to address urgent needs
93 of immigrant and refugee populations; and funding legal defense for
94 immigrants with limited financial resources. On July 6, 2017, Ordinance
95 18544 was enacted to appropriate an additional \$250,000 to support legal
96 defense for immigrants with limited financial resources.

97 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

98 SECTION 1. Sections 2 through 8 of this ordinance should constitute a new
99 chapter in K.C.C. Title 2.

100 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. The King County immigrant and refugee
101 commission is hereby established and shall be referred to as "the commission" throughout
102 this chapter.

103 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. The commission shall:

104 A. Act as a central point of contact, communication and coordination to
105 encourage coordination and efficient intersection of the work of stakeholders serving and
106 engaging immigrant and refugee residents to achieve greater impact. As the hub, the
107 commission shall act as the focal point for connecting a broad group of stakeholders to
108 identify, elevate and develop shared strategies and solutions, streamline and strengthen
109 efforts, and bring more resources to the most pressing issues affecting immigrant and
110 refugee communities. To achieve this purpose, the commission's duties shall include, but
111 not be limited to, the following:

112 1. Assist and advise the council, council administration and independent offices
113 of the legislative branch, the executive branch, including departments, divisions and
114 offices, the sheriff, the assessor, the department of elections, the prosecuting attorney,
115 superior court, district court, and the office of economic and financial analysis on issues,
116 programs, and policies impacting immigrant and refugee communities;

117 2. Collaborate with all levels of government to ensure effective outreach to and
118 engagement of immigrant and refugee communities and advise on the county's role with
119 other government entities;

120 3. Coordinate with the office of equity and social justice to develop and review
121 core principles and strategies on equity as they relate to immigrant and refugee
122 communities in the context of county services, programs and policies;

123 4. Assist with the development and implementation of county services,
124 programs and policies that impact immigrant and refugee communities;

125 5. Evaluate county services, programs and policies from the perspective of
126 immigrant and refugee communities;

127 6. Assist with the development and review of major county plans to ensure that
128 the interests and priorities of immigrants and refugees are incorporated in those plans;

129 7. Promote civic participation and government representation, which shall
130 include, but not be limited to, encouraging application for employment within the county
131 workforce by immigrant and refugee residents and representation of immigrant and
132 refugee residents on boards and commissions;

133 8. Promote naturalization as a path toward civic and economic integration;

134 9. Collaborate with organizations that implement programs to enhance

135 integration, naturalization and English-language learning;

136 10. Increase public awareness of immigrants and refugees and their
137 contributions to our community;

138 11. Collaborate with all levels of government to invest in the capacity of
139 organizations that serve the immigrant and refugee communities;

140 12. Continually review the need for appropriate resourcing and support for
141 issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities;

142 13. Recommend and advocate for increased funding, identify new funding
143 sources and leverage existing funding that include county funds to address the needs of
144 the immigrant and refugee communities and support the commission's activities; and

145 14. Convene workgroups made up of stakeholders serving and engaging
146 immigrant and refugee communities to build a shared countywide strategy to address the
147 top issues surfaced through community input and/or work with the appropriate programs
148 boards/commissions and task forces such as in housing and homelessness, employment
149 and small business, barriers to accessing services, human trafficking and criminal justice
150 and safety;

151 B. Focus on understanding and addressing challenges faced by immigrant and
152 refugee communities living in suburban cities and unincorporated areas of the county.

153 The commission should complement the work engaged by the city of Seattle but with
154 emphasis on communities outside of the city of Seattle. To achieve this purpose, the
155 commission's duties shall include, but not be limited to:

156 1. Advocating for the county to act as a regional partner with cities to
157 investigate the need for increased investment in the development of neighborhood centers

158 or meeting hubs for youth and families, with an emphasis on serving the needs of
159 immigrant and refugee populations;

160 2. Working with county departments, cities, service providers and the Sound
161 Cities Association, to create a strategic plan, to be adopted by the commission, for
162 addressing immigrant and refugee issues in suburban cities and unincorporated areas;

163 3. Investigating whether immigrants and refugees are able to adequately access
164 county services such as district courts, public health clinics, parks, transit in suburban
165 cities, and exploring the potential and need for opening a multilingual, culturally-
166 responsive satellite office in a suburban city if it is determined by the commission that a
167 satellite office would help to increase access;

168 4. Working with county departments to collaborate with businesses to increase
169 economic opportunities for immigrants and refugees living in unincorporated areas to
170 have access to living wage jobs; and

171 5. Working with county departments to gather, share and disaggregate data
172 related to immigrants and refugees in unincorporated areas to determine unmet needs,
173 such as the number of substandard houses, and prevalence of income gaps to understand
174 intersections between place-based challenges for immigrants and refugees; and

175 C. Adopt goals directed towards the purposes and responsibilities of this section.

176 NEW SECTION. SECTION 4.

177 A. The immigrant and refugee commission shall be composed of thirteen
178 members with the following requirements:

179 1. A diversity of members reflecting a range of ethnicities, professional
180 backgrounds, socioeconomic status and places of origin to reflect the diversity of the

181 county's immigrant and refugee communities;

182 2. All members must be residents of King County;

183 3. All members shall demonstrate active and engaged civic participation in one
184 or more immigrant and refugee communities and be well versed on the issues affecting
185 those communities;

186 4. Membership shall reflect gender diversity;

187 5. At least six members shall be from suburban cities or unincorporated areas;

188 6. At least three members shall have had personal experiences as a refugee or
189 asylee from any location worldwide;

190 7. Membership shall represent a range of age groups, including persons
191 representing youth issues;

192 8. At least five members shall represent and be appointed by an immigrant-led
193 organization serving immigrant communities and of these representatives at least three
194 members shall represent and be appointed by a small grass-roots community-based
195 organization that has an annual budget of less than two-hundred fifty thousand dollars,
196 that supports the needs of distinct immigrant and refugee communities and is composed
197 predominantly of members of those communities;

198 9. At least one member should have familiarity with King County government,
199 systems and agencies; and

200 10. Persons representing faith-based organizations are encouraged to apply.

201 B. No more than three members of the immigrant and refugee task force shall be
202 appointed to the immigrant and refugee commission during the first term of the thirteen
203 membership positions.

204 C. The immigrant and refugee commission may also include four nonvoting
205 members who shall be community leaders that are actively engaged with local
206 government, business or philanthropic organizations, and add value to the commission
207 and raise its visibility and capacity through their expertise, relationships, and networks.

208 NEW SECTION. SECTION 5.

209 A. The council and the executive shall jointly announce a call for applications to
210 seek candidates for appointment. The council and the executive shall work
211 collaboratively to ensure that the announcement be publicized widely to the immigrant
212 and refugee communities. Publicity methods shall include, but not be limited to, non-
213 English language newspapers and periodicals, community-based organizations and
214 community leaders with expertise and focus on immigrant and refugee communities and
215 the county's website.

216 B. Candidates seeking appointment must submit two letters of recommendation,
217 each from an immigrant and refugee community member, one letter of recommendation
218 from a nonprofit organization serving immigrant and refugee communities and ten
219 endorsement signatures from persons who are immigrants or refugees.

220 C. A final list of candidates for recommended appointment shall be determined
221 by a committee comprised of two council representatives appointed by the council chair,
222 two executive representatives and three former members of the commission
223 recommended by the chair of the commission. For initial term appointments, the final list
224 of candidates for recommended appointment shall be determined by a committee
225 comprised of two council representatives appointed by the council chair, two executive
226 representatives, and three members of the immigrant and refugee task force who are not

227 seeking appointment to the commission. The committee shall also ensure that the final
228 list of candidates for appointment meet the requirements as outlined in section 3 of this
229 ordinance and seek public input from the immigrant and refugee communities.

230 D. Members of the commission shall be appointed by the executive and
231 confirmed by the council.

232 E. The commission shall establish initial terms of appointment by lot, following
233 completion of the initial appointment and confirmation process. Five positions shall have
234 initial terms of three years, four positions shall have initial terms of two years and the
235 remainder of the positions shall have initial terms of one year.

236 F. At the conclusion of the initial term of each appointment, all subsequent terms
237 of each position shall be for three years. A commission member whose term has expired
238 may continue to serve into the following term until a successor has been appointed to
239 complete the term. A member shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. A
240 vacancy for an unexpired term shall be filled by the appointment process provided for in
241 this section.

242 NEW SECTION. SECTION 6.

243 A. The commission shall issue and deliver an annual report to the council that
244 outlines the work of the commission during the prior calendar year as well as its
245 anticipated work program for the following calendar year. The report shall be filed in the
246 form of a hard copy and an electronic copy with the executive and the clerk of the council
247 by February 15 of each year.

248 B. The commission shall make the annual report available on the county website,
249 distribute it widely to the immigrant and refugee communities, and share it with the press

250 with emphasis on progress towards goals of the commission provided for in section 3 of
251 this ordinance.

252 C. The commission shall provide annual briefings to the press and elected
253 officials representing cities, county and state to ensure that the commission's lessons
254 learned, processes and progress towards goals provided for in section 3 of this ordinance
255 are shared with the public and policy makers.

256 NEW SECTION. SECTION 7.

257 A. The commission shall elect a chair and a vice chair annually, who shall each
258 serve a one-year term.

259 B. The commission may adopt bylaws and other rules for its own conduct.

260 C. The commission shall convene as necessary, but at least monthly, to perform
261 the duties outlined in section 3 of this ordinance. The commission chair may consider
262 and approve requests for absence from meetings; the chair may remove any member who
263 is absent without excuse from three consecutive commission meetings.

264 D. At least four commission meetings each year shall be held in suburban cities
265 or unincorporated areas and may include site visits and informational sessions with
266 residents.

267 E. The commission shall hold at least one large community briefings each year to
268 solicit input from community on top priorities, progress towards goals provided for in
269 section 3 of this ordinance and evaluation of the commission's work and role.

270 NEW SECTION. SECTION 8. An employee from the office of equity and social
271 justice and one council employee shall staff the commission.

272 NEW SECTION. SECTION 9.

273 A. The executive shall reimburse commission members for mileage at the
274 standard county reimbursement rate for travel to and from scheduled commission
275 meetings, workgroup meetings, and community meetings and for parking at meetings
276 outside of county facilities. Members attending meetings or conducting business related
277 to the commission at county facilities shall have parking in the county garage paid by the
278 executive.

Ordinance 18653 was introduced on 11/6/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 1/29/2018, 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



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

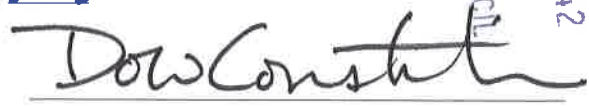


ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 5 day of FEBRUARY, 2018



Dow Constantine, County Executive

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: None