



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 25, 2018

Ordinance 18798

Proposed No. 2018-0381.2

**Sponsors Dembowski, Gossett, Kohl-Welles
and Balducci**

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the establishment of an
2 annual gathering celebrating the life and legacy of
3 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; and adding a new
4 chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.

5 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

6 1. On February 24, 1986, the council adopted Motion 6461 recognizing
7 the great contributions and many achievements in public service of Nobel
8 Peace Prize laureate the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including
9 his persistent and unfailing efforts leading to the passage of the Civil
10 Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Motion 6461
11 changed the namesake of King County from William Rufus DeVane King
12 to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

13 2. The state Legislature passed Chapter 90, Laws of Washington 2005
14 (Engrossed Senate Bill 5332, amending RCW 36.04.170) to rename King
15 County in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Governor
16 Christine Gregoire signed this legislation into law in a ceremony held in
17 the King County Courthouse in Seattle on April 19, 2005. The law took
18 effect July 24, 2005.

19 3. Since the adoption of Motion 6461 in 1986, the county has celebrated

20 the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on an annual
21 basis and since 2004 the celebration has traditionally taken place at large
22 venues (such as Paramount Theater and Benaroya Hall) in downtown
23 Seattle, usually on the Thursday before the third Monday of the month of
24 January. The celebration has traditionally been open to all county
25 employees and the public.

26 4. Each year the celebration gathering has traditionally been planned
27 using a different theme to honor Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In
28 2005, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of working towards
29 equity and justice was highlighted through the theme of "The Struggle
30 Continues". More recently in 2015, the celebration event focused on the
31 fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act
32 and was attended by over 400 people.

33 5. The annual gathering program traditionally included keynote addresses
34 from invited guests and county elected officials, performances by award
35 winning artists and local artists, musical presentations by county
36 employees, presentation of humanitarian awards to community members,
37 recognition of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest
38 winners, and readings of excerpts from Dr. King's speeches.

39 6. The annual gathering has traditionally been coordinated by the
40 department of executive services with assistance from an interbranch team
41 composed of representatives from county branches, departments, agencies
42 and offices of county government. The office of equity and social justice

43 took over the coordination in 2017.

44 7. In 2018, after thirty years of consecutive annual gatherings, the
45 executive replaced the public gathering with a "conversation cafe" where
46 county employees explored issues of race, equity and justice in small
47 groups of peers.

48 8. The council recognizes the importance of this annual gathering for all
49 county residents and that the county should lead the effort to celebrate the
50 life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by memorializing
51 the annual gathering. The council also recognizes that the annual gathering
52 event should continue in a similar format as it has been done prior to 2018,
53 which includes having the gathering be open to the public.

54 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

55 SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this ordinance should constitute a new chapter
56 in K.C.C. Title 2.

57 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2.

58 A. The county's office of equity and social justice shall invite representatives
59 from all branches, departments, agencies and offices of county government to form an
60 interbranch team to plan the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., annual gathering
61 celebrating the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

62 B. The interbranch team shall reach out to community representatives to receive
63 ideas for the planning of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., annual gathering, and
64 receive feedback during the planning of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., annual
65 gathering.

66 C. The county's office of equity and social justice in collaboration with the
67 interbranch team shall each year convene an annual gathering celebrating the life and
68 legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The intent of the gathering shall be to:

69 1. Provide a countywide gathering for all members of the public to celebrate the
70 life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

71 2. Recognize the impact that Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has on our
72 community and our nation and bring to attention Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s
73 message of equity, social justice, and non-violence and his, political, and social
74 philosophies; and

75 3. Inspire county residents to strive in a non-violent manner for the human
76 rights, civil liberties, and economic guarantees rightfully due to all peoples.

77 D. The gathering shall be held in the second week of the month of January.

78 E. The gathering shall be open to all county employees that are available to
79 attend. Separately elected officials, department directors, and division managers shall
80 make an effort to accommodate all county employees that request to attend the gathering.

81 F. The gathering shall be open to the public.

82 G. The county's office of equity and social justice in collaboration with the
83 interbranch team should widely publicize the gathering. Publicity methods shall include,
84 but not be limited to, the official county newspaper, newspapers of general circulation
85 within each council district, king county civic television, television news outlets, social
86 media platforms, non-English language newspapers and periodicals distributed in the
87 county, and the county's website.

88 H. The gathering shall be held in a king county venue that would accommodate

89 all attendees.

90 I. The gathering shall consider including:

91 1. Presentation of the King County Medal of Distinguished Service awards;

92 2. Keynote addresses from invited guests and county elected officials;

93 3. Performances by award winning artists, local artists, or both;

94 4. Recognition of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest

95 winners; and

96 5. Readings of excerpts from Dr. King's speeches.

97 J. Costs of the gathering are hereby authorized, subject to availability of funds in

98 the county general fund.

99 K. The executive shall include a proposed budget that will cover the costs of each

100 annual gathering as part of the executive's proposed biennial budget to council.

101 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. The executive and the interbranch team, as

102 described in K.C.C. 2.10.220, may convene additional gatherings and events celebrating

103 the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and are not limited to the

104 annual gathering set forth in Section 2 of this ordinance.

105 SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to

106 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
107 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
108

Ordinance 18798 was introduced on 8/20/2018 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 9/24/2018, 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



Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED this 3 day of OCTOBER, 2018.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None