



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda Metropolitan King County Council

*Councilmembers: Sarah Perry, Chair;
Jorge Barón, Vice Chair of Policy Development and Review;
Reagan Dunn, Vice Chair of Regional Coordination;
Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Steffanie Fain,
Rhonda Lewis, Teresa Mosqueda, Pete von Reichbauer*

1:30 PM

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

Hybrid Meetings: Attend King County Council meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or provide comment remotely are listed below.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TESTIMONY: The Council values community input and looks forward to hearing from you. Testimony must be limited to items listed on the agenda for council action, unless it's the fourth Tuesday of the month, when the Council will hear general comment on matters relating to county government. You are not required to sign up in advance.

There are three ways to provide public testimony:

1. **In person:** You may attend the meeting in person in Council Chambers.
2. **By email:** You may testify by submitting a COMMENT email. If your testimony is submitted before 10:00 a.m. on the day of the Council meeting, your email testimony will be distributed to the Councilmembers and appropriate staff prior to the meeting. Please submit your testimony by emailing clerk@kingcounty.gov.
3. **Remote attendance on the Zoom Webinar:** You may provide oral public testimony at the meeting by connecting to the meeting via phone or computer using the ZOOM application at <https://zoom.us/>, and entering the Webinar ID below.

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR

Webinar ID: 873 0459 1515

If you do not have access to the ZOOM application, you can connect to the meeting by calling 1 253 215 8782 and using the Webinar ID. Connecting in this manner, however, may impact your ability to be unmuted to speak.

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1. Call to Order

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

2. Roll Call

3. Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Balducci

4. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2026

Pg. 7

Councilmember Barón

5. Additions to the Council Agenda

6. Special Item

Proclamation of March 22 to 28, 2026, as Transit Appreciation Week in King County.

Councilmember Fain and Councilmember Balducci

Proclamation of March 2026 as Women’s History Month in King County.

Councilmember Balducci, Councilmember Fain, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Mosqueda, and Councilmember Perry



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Hearing and Second Reading of Ordinances from Standing Committees and Regional Committees, and of Ordinances related to Collective Bargaining

There will be one public hearing on Items 6 & 9-13

Law and Justice

Councilmember Lewis

7. [Proposed Substitute Ordinance No. 2026-0027.2](#) **Pg. 15**

AN ORDINANCE limiting the use of King County-owned and controlled property; amending Ordinance 18665, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.15.005 and Ordinance 17706, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.15.020 and adding a new section to K.C.C. chapter 2.15.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

On 2/17/2026, the Metropolitan King County Council Introduced and Referred to Law and Justice Committee.

On 3/4/2026, the Law and Justice Committee Recommended Do Pass Substitute.

A one week’s continuance of final action on this item has been requested. Unless the ruling of the chair is overturned, in accordance with Rule 2, action on Proposed Ordinance 2026-0027 will be continued to next week’s Council agenda and no public comment will be taken at today’s meeting.

Hearing Examiner Consent Agenda - Item 8

Councilmember Fain

8. [Proposed Substitute Ordinance No. 2025-0368.2](#) **Pg. 36**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the vacation of a portion of a portion of 52nd Avenue South/Indiana Ave, file no. V-2735; Petitioner: Whispering Woods Estates, LLC.

Sponsors: Perry

On 12/9/2025, the Metropolitan King County Council Introduced and Referred to Hearing Examiner.

On 1/6/2026, the Metropolitan King County Council Reintroduced.

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Motions, from Standing Committees and Regional Committees and Motions related to Collective Bargaining, for Council Action

Consent Items 9-13

Councilmember Barón

9. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0228](#) **Pg. 49**

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Crystal Goodwin, who resides in council district seven, to the King County board for developmental disabilities.

Sponsors: von Reichbauer

On 12/9/2025, the Metropolitan King County Council Introduced and Referred to Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.

On 1/20/2026, the Metropolitan King County Council Reintroduced.

On 3/3/2026, the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Recommended Do Pass Consent.

10. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0253](#) **Pg. 53**

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Dae Degrade, who resides in council district nine, to the King County behavioral health advisory board.

Sponsors: Dunn

On 12/2/2025, the Metropolitan King County Council Introduced and Referred to Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.

On 1/6/2026, the Metropolitan King County Council Reintroduced.

On 3/3/2026, the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Recommended Do Pass Consent.

11. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0255](#) **Pg. 57**

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Someireh Amirfaiz, who resides in council district nine, to the King County mental illness and drug dependency advisory committee, as a provider of culturally specific mental health services in King County.

Sponsors: Dunn

On 12/2/2025, the Metropolitan King County Council Introduced and Referred to Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.

On 1/6/2026, the Metropolitan King County Council Reintroduced.

On 3/3/2026, the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Recommended Do Pass Consent.



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12. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0337](#) Pg. 61

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Carrol Stripling, who resides in council district seven, to the King County veterans advisory board.

Sponsors: von Reichbauer

On 12/9/2025, the Metropolitan King County Council Introduced and Referred to Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.

On 1/20/2026, the Metropolitan King County Council Reintroduced.

On 3/3/2026, the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Recommended Do Pass Consent.

13. [Proposed Substitute Motion No. 2026-0017.2](#) Pg. 65

A MOTION stating the council's support for continued entheogen-related research for alternative treatment modalities, structured medical models, and full decriminalization of entheogen-related activities and requesting that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any adult engaging in certain entheogen-related activities be among King County's lowest criminal enforcement priorities.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

On 1/27/2026, the Metropolitan King County Council Introduced and Referred to Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.

On 2/3/2026, the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Deferred.

On 3/3/2026, the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Recommended Do Pass Substitute Consent.

14. Reports on Special and Outside Committees

Other Business

Adjournment

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King County

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Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan King County Council

*Councilmembers: Sarah Perry, Chair;
Jorge Barón, Vice Chair of Policy Development and Review;
Reagan Dunn, Vice Chair of Regional Coordination;
Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Steffanie Fain,
Rhonda Lewis, Teresa Mosqueda, Pete von Reichbauer*

1:30 PM

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The Chair recessed the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Present: 8 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Perry and von Reichbauer

Excused: 1 - Mosqueda

3. Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Fain led the flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2026

Councilmember Barón moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026, meeting as presented. Seeing no objection, the Chair so ordered.

5. Additions to the Council Agenda

There were no additions

Hearing and Second Reading of Ordinances from Standing Committees and Regional Committees, and of Ordinances related to Collective Bargaining

There will be one public hearing on Items 6-9

*The following people spoke:
Alex Tsimmerman
Yvette Dinish*

Consent Items 6-8

6. **[Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0359](#)**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the execution of a new lease at an existing location to support the operation of public health - Seattle & King County.

Sponsors: Dembowski

The enacted number is 20042.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

7. **[Proposed Substitute Ordinance No. 2025-0361.2](#)**

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the execution of an amended and restated lease to support the operation of public health - Seattle & King County.

Sponsors: Dembowski

The enacted number is 20043.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

8. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0024](#)

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the manager of treasury operations of King County to cancel the attached list of uncollectible personal property taxes in the amount of \$1,218,769 for the years 2018 through 2025.

Sponsors: Dembowski

The enacted number is 20044.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. This matter passed on the Consent Agenda.

Passed On The Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Barón that the Consent Agenda be passed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Perry, and von Reichbauer

Excused: 1 - Mosqueda

Motions, from Standing Committees and Regional Committees and Motions related to Collective Bargaining, for Council Action

Consent Item 9

9. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0011](#)

A MOTION confirming the appointment of Stephen Heard as director of the King County department of information technology.

Sponsors: Barón

The enacted number is 16955.

A Public Hearing was held and closed. A motion was made by Councilmember Barón that this Motion be Passed on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Perry, and von Reichbauer

Excused: 1 - Mosqueda

First Reading and Referral of Ordinances

10. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0037](#)

AN ORDINANCE approving South Link Connections Public Transportation Service Changes for King County.

Sponsors: Fain and von Reichbauer

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Transportation, Economy, and Environment Committee.

11. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0041](#)

AN ORDINANCE approving an application for current use assessment for public benefit rating system, submitted by Pavel Aprikian and Louisa Khudaverdian for property located at 17725 SE 102nd Street, Newcastle, WA 98059, designated department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources division file no. E25CT016.

Sponsors: Perry

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Hearing Examiner.

12. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0042](#)

AN ORDINANCE approving an application for current use assessment for public benefit rating system, submitted by Jessica and Nicholas Firsow for property located at 31811 NE 199th Place, Duvall, WA 98019, designated department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources division file no. E25CT015.

Sponsors: Perry

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Hearing Examiner.

13. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0043](#)

AN ORDINANCE approving an application for current use assessment for public benefit rating system, submitted by Tara Meehan for property located south and abutting 17408 96th Place SW, Vashon, WA 98070, designated department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources division file no. E25CT027.

Sponsors: Perry

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Hearing Examiner.

14. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0044](#)

AN ORDINANCE approving an application for current use assessment for public benefit rating system, submitted by Linda Tong for property located at 5617 236th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98053, designated department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources division file no. E25CT034.

Sponsors: Perry

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Hearing Examiner.

15. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0045](#)

AN ORDINANCE approving an application for current use assessment for public benefit rating system, submitted by Jeff and Clover Bachman for property located at 17317 W Snoqualmie Valley Road NE, Duvall, WA 98019, designated department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources division file no. E25CT029.

Sponsors: Perry

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Hearing Examiner.

16. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0046](#)

AN ORDINANCE approving an application for current use assessment for public benefit rating system, submitted by Graeme and Lois Laughlin for property located 18802 SE Jones Road, Renton, WA 98058, designated department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources division file no. E25CT032.

Sponsors: Perry

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Hearing Examiner.

17. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-0047](#)

AN ORDINANCE correcting the legal description in Ordinance 19723, which authorized the vacation of a portion of 152nd Ave SE, File V-2745; Petitioners: Micah and Florine Palmer; amending Ordinance 19723, Section 1, and repealing Ordinance 19723, Section 2.

Sponsors: Dunn

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Hearing Examiner.

First Reading and Referral of Motions

18. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0029](#)

A MOTION authorizing the department of public health to accept a donation of \$233,411 from Virginia Mason Medical Center, to be used for Eastgate Public Health Center operations and services.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.

19. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0038](#)

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a plan describing the analysis to be completed for the policy questions identified in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update scope document as adopted by regional water quality committee resolution 2025-01, prepared in accordance with the 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 20023, Section 115, Proviso P1.

Sponsors: Balducci

This matter had its first reading and was referred to the Transportation, Economy, and Environment Committee.

20. Reports on Special and Outside Committees

No reports were given.

Other Business

21. Public Employee Relations Commission Notice

Andre Chevalier, Office of Labor Relations, read the Public Employment Relations Commission Notice, attached to these minutes, into the record.

Chair Perry read a statement regarding the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight reappointment.

Chair Perry thanked Erin Auzins, Supervising Legislative Analyst, for her years of service to the Council.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____

Clerk's Signature



Signature Report

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2026-0027.2

Sponsors Mosqueda

1 AN ORDINANCE limiting the use of King County-owned
 2 and controlled property; amending Ordinance 18665,
 3 Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.15.005 and Ordinance
 4 17706, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.15.020 and
 5 adding a new section to K.C.C. chapter 2.15.

6 STATEMENT OF FACTS: The Preamble of the King County Charter
 7 states that its purpose is "to form a more just, equitable and orderly
 8 government for all, . . . enable effective public participation, preserve,
 9 protect and enhance a healthy rural and urban environment and economy,
 10 promote a superior quality of life and secure the benefits of home rule and
 11 self-government."

12 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

13 SECTION 1. Ordinance 18665, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.15.005 are
 14 hereby amended to read as follows:

15 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context
 16 clearly requires otherwise.

17 A. "Administrative warrant" means a noncriminal immigration warrant of arrest,
 18 order to detain or release aliens, notice of custody determination, notice to appear,
 19 removal order, warrant of removal, or any other document, issued by ICE, CBP, USCIS,
 20 or any other federal agency that can form the basis for a person's arrest or detention for a

21 civil immigration enforcement purpose. ICE administrative warrant forms include the
22 U.S. DHS form I-200 (Rev. 09/16) "Warrant for Arrest of Alien" and Form I-205
23 "Warrant Of Removal/Deportation," as well as predecessor and successor versions.
24 "Administrative warrant" does not include any criminal warrants issued upon a judicial
25 determination of probable cause and in compliance with the Fourth Amendment to the
26 United States Constitution.

27 B. "Agency" means a King County department, agency, division, commission,
28 council, committee, board, other body, or person, established by authority of an
29 ordinance, executive order, or charter.

30 C. "Agent" means a person acting within the scope of employment by or acting
31 on behalf of an agency.

32 D. "CBP" means the United States Customs and Border Protection agency of the
33 United States Department of Homeland Security and shall include any successor federal
34 agency charged with border enforcement.

35 E. "Citizenship or immigration status" means a person's recorded citizenship or
36 immigration status, as such status is defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act, at
37 the time an agent or agency receives the information.

38 F. "Civil immigration enforcement operation" means an operation that has as one
39 of its objectives the identification or apprehension of a person or persons in order to
40 investigate them for a violation of the immigration laws and subject them to one or more
41 of the following:

- 42 1. Civil immigration detention;
- 43 2. Removal proceedings; and

44 3. Removal from the United States.

45 G. "Coerce" means to use express or implied threats towards a person or any
46 family member of a person that attempts to put the person in immediate fear of the
47 consequences in order to compel that person to act against the person's will.

48 H. "Commitment" means confinement in secure detention for a specified amount
49 of time following a determination of guilt. "Commitment" does not include pretrial
50 detention of any persons such as those who are unable to post bail.

51 I. "Contractor" means a regional coalition or authority, state or local government,
52 tribe, person, firm, corporation, or partnership providing health, housing, or human
53 services in accordance with a contract with King County and including any
54 subcontractor, employee, and agent thereof.

55 J. "County-owned and controlled property" means real property owned and
56 controlled by King County, including nonpublic areas of buildings or a county facility,
57 parking lots, garages, and vacant lots, not including the public right-of-way used for
58 pedestrian and vehicular traffic or the King County International Airport.

59 K. "Employee" means a person who is appointed as an employee by the
60 appointing authority of a county agency, office, department, council, board, commission
61 or other separate unit or division of county government, however designated, acting
62 within the scope of employment by or acting on behalf of the county. "County
63 employee" also includes a county elected official and a member of a county board,
64 commission, committee or other multimember body, but does not include an official or
65 employee of the county's judicial branch, though it does include an employee of the
66 department of judicial administration.

67 ~~((K-))~~ L. "ICE" means the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
68 agency including Enforcement and Removal Operations and Homeland Security
69 Investigations and shall include any successor federal agency charged with the
70 enforcement of immigration laws.

71 ~~((L-))~~ M. "Immigration detainer" means a request by ICE to a federal, state or
72 local law enforcement agency, such as the King County department of adult and juvenile
73 detention, to provide notice of release or maintain custody of a person based on an
74 alleged violation of a civil immigration law. "Immigration detainer" includes a detainer
75 issued under Sections 236 or 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act or 287.7 or
76 236.1 of Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations. "Immigration detainer" includes a
77 detainer issued under DHS form I-274A entitled Immigration Detainer- Notice of Action,
78 as well as predecessor and successor versions.

79 ~~((M-))~~ N. "Interpretation" means the transfer of an oral communication from one
80 language to another.

81 ~~((N-))~~ O. "Limited-English-proficient" means a person who does not speak
82 English as the person's primary language, who has a limited ability to read, speak, write,
83 or understand English.

84 ~~((O-))~~ P. "Nonpublic" means any area of a county facility, including the secure
85 detention facilities of the department of adult and juvenile detention that is not generally
86 open and accessible to the general public, but instead requires special permission for
87 admittance by a county employee on an individual basis. "Nonpublic" also means any
88 area of a contractor's facility, used to provide services under the county contract, that is

89 not generally open and accessible to the general public, but instead requires the
90 contractor's permission for admittance to that area.

91 ~~((P-))~~ Q. "Operation base" means an area that is used to plan, coordinate, and
92 execute civil immigration enforcement activities.

93 R. "Personal information" means one or more of the following, when the
94 information is linked with or is reasonably linkable, including via analytic technology, to
95 the person's first name or first initial and last name:

- 96 1. Home address;
- 97 2. Work address;
- 98 3. Telephone number;
- 99 4. Electronic mail address;
- 100 5. Social media handle or other identifying social media information;
- 101 6. Any other means of contacting a person;
- 102 7. Social security number;
- 103 8. Driver's license number or Washington identification card number;
- 104 9. Bank account number or credit or debit card number;
- 105 10. Information or data collected through the use or operation of an automated
106 license plate recognition system;
- 107 11. User name that, in combination with a password or security question and
108 answer, would permit access to an online account; and
- 109 12. Date of birth.

110 ~~((Q-))~~ S. "Processing location" means an area that is used for activities such as
111 the identification, intake, or processing of documentation for people who have been

112 arrested, detained, or temporarily held in connection with civil immigration enforcement
113 operations.

114 T. "Public communication materials" means materials that are intended for broad
115 distribution to inform or educate people served by King County. For the purpose of
116 translation, "public communication materials" refers only to printed media such as
117 brochures, posters, booklets, pamphlets, billboards, and advertisements in printed
118 publications.

119 ~~((R.))~~ U. "Staging area" means an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and
120 deploy vehicles, equipment, or materials, and related personnel, for the purpose of
121 carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.

122 V. "Translation" means the transfer of a written communication from one
123 language to another while preserving the intent and essential meaning of the original text.

124 ~~((S.))~~ W. "USCIS" shall mean the United States Citizenship and Immigration
125 Services and any successor agency charged with overseeing United States immigration
126 laws.

127 ~~((F.))~~ X. "Verbal abuse" means the use of a remark which is overtly insulting,
128 mocking, or belittling directed at a person based upon the actual or perceived:

129 1. One or more of the protected classes as defined in K.C.C. chapter 3.12D or
130 English proficiency; or

131 2. Citizenship or immigration status of the person or the person's family
132 member.

133 ~~((U.))~~ Y. "Vital documents" are materials that provide essential information for
134 accessing basic county services and benefits and for which serious consequences would
135 result if the information were not provided.

136 SECTION 2. Ordinance 17706, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.15.020 are
137 hereby amended to read as follows:

138 A. An agent of King County or county employee shall not expend any time,
139 moneys, real property assets, or other resources on facilitating the civil enforcement of
140 federal immigration law or participating in civil immigration enforcement operations,
141 except where state or federal law, regulation, or court order or rule shall so require.
142 However, a county agency, employee, or agent is not prohibited from sending to, or
143 receiving from, federal immigration authorities, the citizenship or immigration status of a
144 person. Also, nothing in this section prohibits any county agency from sending to,
145 receiving from, requesting from or exchanging with any federal, state, or local
146 government agency information regarding the immigration status of a person or from
147 maintaining such information.

148 B. King County and its agents and departments and county employees shall not:

149 1. Enter into any contract, agreement, or arrangement, whether written or oral,
150 that would grant federal civil immigration enforcement authority or powers to King
151 County or its agents or law enforcement officers, including but not limited to agreements
152 created under 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1357(g) or Intergovernmental Service Agreements;

153 2. Honor immigration detainer requests or administrative warrants issued by
154 ICE, CBP, USCIS, or any other federal agency, or hold any person upon the basis of an
155 ICE, CBP, USCIS, or any other federal agency detainer request or administrative warrant

156 unless such request or warrant is accompanied by a criminal warrant issued by a United
157 States District Court judge or magistrate. The sheriff's office or the department of adult
158 and juvenile detention personnel shall not carry out a civil arrest, detain a person after the
159 release date set by a court, or refuse to accept a bond based on an administrative warrant
160 separately or in combination with an ICE, CBP, USCIS, or any other federal agency
161 detainer request;

162 3. For purposes of execution of federal civil immigration enforcement, permit
163 ICE, CBP, USCIS, or any other federal agency officers, agents, or representatives access
164 to nonpublic areas of King County's facilities, property, equipment or nonpublic
165 databases, or nonpublic portions of otherwise public databases, or people in King
166 County's custody, absent a judicial criminal warrant specifying the information or
167 persons sought unless otherwise required by state or federal law. Any warrantless
168 attempts or requests for access to those facilities, property, equipment, or nonpublic
169 databases shall be immediately sent to the department or agency director or their designee
170 responsible for the operation of the facility, property, database, or equipment. Permission
171 to access any such a facility, property, equipment, or nonpublic database without a
172 judicial criminal warrant may only be provided with the express, written approval of the
173 appropriate person. Any detention facilities, including secure detention facilities, prisons,
174 and halfway houses, that King County contracts with or leases land to for the purposes of
175 criminal or civil detention must include the requirement in this subsection B.3. in any
176 contract with King County; ~~((and))~~

177 4. Authorize the use of any county-owned and controlled property for civil
178 immigration enforcement operations, including as a staging area, processing location, or

179 operation base, except where state or federal law, regulation, or court order or rule shall
180 so require as those actions do not comply with the King County Charter, the King County
181 Code, and policies; and

182 5. Provide personal information to federal immigration authorities for purpose
183 of civil immigration enforcement, except as required by state or federal law, about any
184 person, including place of birth or household members, the services received by the
185 person or the person's next court date or release date, absent a warrant signed by a judge
186 or a law requiring disclosure.

187 C.1. If permission to access a King County detention facility without a judicial
188 criminal warrant is granted to ICE, CBP, USCIS, or any other federal agency in
189 accordance with subsection B.3. of this section for the purpose of conducting an
190 interview that does not relate to civil immigration enforcement with a person who is in
191 the custody of the department of adult and juvenile detention, the department of adult and
192 juvenile detention shall provide the person with an oral explanation and a written consent
193 form that explains the purpose of the interview, that the interview is voluntary, and that
194 the person may decline to be interviewed or may choose to be interviewed only with the
195 person's attorney present. The form shall state explicitly that the person will not be
196 punished or suffer retaliation for declining to be interviewed. The form shall be available
197 in English, Spanish, and any other language identified by the county's language
198 assistance plan as established in K.C.C. 2.15.030.B. and explained orally to a person who
199 is unable to read the form. The requesting officials shall only be permitted to interview
200 persons who have consented in writing to be interviewed, absent a judicial criminal
201 warrant.

202 2. Upon receiving a civil or criminal immigration warrant, detainer, hold,
203 notification, or transfer request, the department of adult and juvenile detention personnel
204 shall provide a copy of the request to the person and inform the person whether the
205 department intends to comply with the request.

206 3. Consistent with Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,
207 any person in custody or detention shall be informed through the person's attorney of the
208 right to communicate with the consular post of a country of which the person is a
209 national, if other than the United States, and informed that the person's consular officers
210 have the right to visit, converse, or correspond with the person, if the person wishes the
211 communication. If a person chooses to disclose that the person is a foreign national and
212 requests consular notification, the custodian shall contact the appropriate consulate. The
213 informed consent requirements of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations shall
214 apply to all such inquiries. The same requirements shall apply to inquiries into
215 nationality status for the purpose of complying with mandatory consular notification
216 under any bilateral consular convention. In all cases, identification as a foreign national
217 shall be voluntary and based on informed consent by the person.

218 4. King County shall consider all records relating to ICE, CBP, USCIS, or any
219 other federal agency access to facilities and information, including all communications
220 with ICE, CBP, USCIS, or any other federal agency to be public records for purposes of
221 chapter 42.56 RCW, the state Public Records Act, and King County shall handle all such
222 requests in accordance with the usual procedures for receipt of public records requests.

223 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 2.15 a
224 new section to read as follows:

225 A.1. The executive shall design clear signage or templates for agencies to
226 produce and post on their applicable county properties stating: "This property is owned
227 and controlled by King County. It shall not be used for civil immigration enforcement
228 operations, including as a staging area, processing location, or operations base."

229 2. The executive shall work with county agencies to classify property that is
230 both county-owned and county-controlled that could be used as a staging area, processing
231 location, or operations base, for civil enforcement operations. The executive shall confer
232 with agencies regarding properties at high risk of improper enforcement uses and develop
233 strategies to increase security measures for such properties.

234 3. County agencies shall ensure that, wherever appropriate and as resources
235 allow, physical barriers such as locked gates are used to limit access to county-owned and
236 county-controlled properties.

237 B. Within thirty days of the date of enactment of this ordinance, county
238 departments and agencies shall develop the procedures necessary to implement this
239 ordinance. The implementing procedures shall provide that any county employee who
240 becomes aware of the attempted or actual use of a county-owned and county-controlled
241 property as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for the purpose of civil
242 immigration enforcement operations shall immediately report the attempted or actual use
243 to the department or agency director or their designee responsible for the operation of the
244 property who shall report it to the executive. The executive shall electronically transmit a
245 report bi-annually to the clerk of the council, who shall retain a copy, and provide a copy
246 to all councilmembers and the council's chief of staff.

247 C.1. The executive shall design a signage template that private property owners
248 and leaseholders, including but not limited to businesses, nonprofit organizations, and
249 faith institutions, can use, if they choose that clearly states: "This property is a Stand
250 Together King County partner. No agent of the federal government, including
251 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), may enter these premises for purposes of
252 civil immigration enforcement, absent a valid judicial warrant or court order. This
253 property may not be used for civil immigration enforcement operations, including as a
254 staging area, processing location, or operations base."

255 2. Property owners and leaseholders that use the signage do so at their own
256 discretion and assume any legal risk associated with its usage. The executive will also
257 make available to the public "know your rights" materials regarding entry by federal
258 immigration enforcement officials.

259 D. This section does not apply to property that is subject to an existing lease or
260 concession agreement to which the county is a party. This section is not intended to, and
261 shall not be interpreted to, interfere with any such lease or agreement.

262 E. Nothing in this section shall be construed as restricting or interfering with the
263 execution of lawful judicial warrants, court orders, or the enforcement of criminal law,
264 nor as limiting the rights of any person or entity under state or federal law. This section
265 does not prohibit the lawful use of county-owned and controlled property for purposes
266 other than a staging area, processing location, or operations base for civil law
267 enforcement, nor does it restrict any person or entity from carrying out functions
268 unrelated to those purposes on such property.

269 **SECTION 4. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its application to
270 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
271 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Girmay Zahilay, County Executive

Attachments: None



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Law and Justice Committee**

REVISED STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	5	Name:	Gene Paul
Proposed No.:	2026-0027	Date:	March 4, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Proposed Substitute Ordinance 2026-0027.2, which would limit the use of county-owned and controlled property as a staging area, processing location, or operations base, for civil immigration enforcement operations, passed out of committee on March 4, 2026, with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The Proposed Ordinance was amended in committee with Striking Amendment 1 to make the following changes:

- *Add a statement of fact with language from the Preamble to the King County Charter;*
- *Update the definition of "county-owned and controlled property" to specify the term does not include the public right-of-way used for pedestrian and vehicular traffic or the King County International Airport;*
- *Update the definition of "processing location" to clarify that it means an area that is used for activities such as the identification, intake, or processing of documentation for people who have been arrested, detained, or temporarily held in connection with civil immigration enforcement operations;*
- *Update K.C.C. 2.15.020.A. to include "real property" in the list of resources that an agent of King County or County employee shall not use to facilitate or participate in civil immigration enforcement operations, except as required by state or federal law or court order;*
- *Add a new subsection to K.C.C. 2.15.020.B. that states that County agents, departments, and employees shall not authorize the use of any county-owned and controlled property for civil immigration enforcement operations, including as a staging area, processing location, or operation base, except where state or federal law, regulation, or court order or rule shall so require;*
- *Remove the language that previously specified that county-owned and controlled property shall not be commandeered by federal authorities for use as staging area, processing location, or operation for civil immigration enforcement; and*
- *Make technical edits to renumber subsections where necessary.*

SUBJECT

Proposed Ordinance 2026-0027 would limit the use of county-owned and controlled property as a staging area, processing location, or operations base, for civil immigration enforcement operations.

SUMMARY

Proposed Ordinance 2026-0027 would codify the limitations from County Executive Order ACO-8-32-EO and restrict the use of county-owned and controlled property as a staging area, processing location, or operations base, for civil immigration enforcement operations. It would also require the Executive to develop signage templates; take steps to identify and physically secure county-owned and controlled property that could be used as a staging area, processing location or operations base; and develop reporting procedures for implementation.

BACKGROUND

King County Code Chapter 2.15. In 2009, the Council adopted an ordinance, codified as King County Code (K.C.C.) Chapter 2.15, relating to the ascertainment of a person's citizenship or immigration status.¹ Over the years, the Council has adopted several ordinances to amend and expand K.C.C. Chapter 2.15 with the most recent changes occurring in 2025 and the most comprehensive set of changes occurring in 2018.² The ordinances have noted that the enforcement of civil immigration laws are a federal responsibility, that King County is dedicated to providing all of its residents fair and equal access to services, opportunities, and protection, and that the chapter is meant to help:

- Foster trust and cooperation between law enforcement officials and immigrant communities to heighten crime prevention and public safety;
- Promote the public health of county residents; and
- Ensure all county residents have access to necessary services and benefits essential for upholding the county's commitment to fair and equal access for all residents.³

There are currently eight sections within the chapter:

1. K.C.C. 2.15.005 is a definitions section, defining words or phrases including those specifically related to federal civil immigration enforcement such as “administrative warrant” and “civil immigration enforcement operation”.
2. K.C.C. 2.15.010 prohibits conditioning the provision of county services on the citizenship or immigration status of any person (except where otherwise required by law). Relatedly, this section limits what information the county may request or

¹ Ordinance 16692

² In 2018, Ordinance 18665 clarified, reordered, and expanded K.C.C. Chapter 2.15. Other ordinances amending this chapter include Ordinances 17706, 17886, 18635, 19026, 19541, 19772, 19977, and 19892.

³ Findings Section for Ordinance 16692, Statement of Facts for Ordinances 17706 and 17886, and Preamble for Ordinance 18665.

collect regarding citizenship, immigration status, or national origin⁴; requires county employees to accept certain types of identification⁵; and prohibits employees from coercing responses, verbally abusing persons, or threatening to take immigration-related action against a person or their family members, including reporting them to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

3. K.C.C. 2.15.015 prohibits the Sheriff's Office from doing certain things such as requesting specific documents related to a person's civil immigration status for the sole purpose of determining whether the person has violated federal civil immigration laws (these include but are not limited to passports, alien registration cards, or work permits) or using stops for minor offenses or requests for voluntary information as a pretext for discovering a person's immigration status.
4. K.C.C. 2.15.020 prohibits county employees from expending any time, moneys, or other resources on facilitating the civil enforcement of federal immigration law or participating in civil immigration enforcement operations, except where state or federal law, regulation, or court order requires it.
5. K.C.C. 2.15.030 requires King County and all its contractors to provide free interpretation and translation services to limited-English proficient (LEP) persons. It also requires county agencies to develop language assistance plans.
6. K.C.C. 2.15.050 extends some of the county's existing restrictions on facilitating or participating in civil immigration enforcement (K.C.C. 2.15.020) to certain contractors of King County.
7. K.C.C. 2.15.100 states that a person who has been injured or otherwise sustained damages as a result of a violation of this chapter may file a complaint with the Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice.
8. K.C.C. 2.15.110 acknowledges the county's intent to fully comply with federal law. Federal law – specifically, 8 U.S.C. § 1373 – limits the ability of state and local governments to ban the sharing of certain types of information with federal immigration authorities. Per this section of the County Code: "*...nothing in this chapter prohibits any county agency, agent or employee from sending to, or receiving from, federal immigration authorities, the citizenship or immigration status of a person. Also, nothing in this chapter prohibits any county agency from sending to, receiving from, requesting from or exchanging with any federal, state*

⁴ K.C.C. 2.15.010.G. prohibits county agencies from obtaining, maintaining, or sharing information about a person's protected class (as defined in K.C.C. 3.12D), language proficiency, housing status, financial status, status as a victim of domestic violence, criminal history, release date from incarceration or confinement in a secure detention or other custody with the following exceptions: where necessary to provide county services, for performance measurement purposes to ensure services are being provided in an equitable and nondiscriminatory manner, or where otherwise required by state or federal law or regulation or directive or court order.

⁵ County agencies must accept state-issued documents marked as not valid for federal purposes or photo identity documents issued by the person's nation of origin (such as a driver's license, passport, or other consul-issued document). This subsection does not apply to documentation required to complete a federal I-9 employment eligibility verification form.

or local government agency information regarding the immigration status of a person or from maintaining such information."

Keep Washington Working Act. In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed the Keep Washington Working Act (KWWA).⁶ The legislation included provisions similar to what is in K.C.C. Chapter 2.15. For example, it requires state employees to serve all Washington residents without regard to citizenship or immigration status, directs state agencies to limit the information they collect to what is minimally necessary, and prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies from providing nonpublic personal information about an individual to federal immigration authorities in noncriminal matters unless required by law.

Additionally, the legislation directed the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) to develop model policies, which it did in 2020. As required by the KWWA, the AGO published model policies for "limiting immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law at public schools, health facilities operated by the state or a political subdivision of the state, courthouses, and shelters, to ensure they remain safe and accessible to all Washington residents, regardless of immigration or citizenship status." The KWWA encourages "all other organizations and entities that provide services related to physical or mental health and wellness, education, or access to justice" to adopt the model policy.

The model policies can be found on the AGO's website and, according to the website, are still applicable as of March 18, 2025.⁷ The website notes that, while the federal processes or policies referenced in the AGO's 2020 guidance may have changed, the law still protects against local and state agencies from being compelled to engage in federal immigration enforcement.

County Executive Order. On February 12, 2026, Executive Zahilay signed Executive Order ACO-8-32-EO, or "the Executive Order," establishing key protections for immigrants and refugees in the county, including directives for departments and limitations on civil immigration enforcement in county-owned and county-controlled buildings.⁸ The Executive Order contained seven substantive sections:

1. Section 1. Established a Welcoming County Subcabinet to develop policy, budget, and administrative action proposals that support and protect residents impacted by civil immigration enforcement. The subcabinet, composed of representatives from at least 13 county departments, was also tasked to work with the Council on exploring "an ordinance to create a moratorium on development of new detention facilities in unincorporated King County and establish additional limitations on county-owned and controlled properties."⁹

⁶ E2SB 5497; Section 10, Chapter 440, Laws of Washington 2019. [[LINK](#)]

⁷ Washington State Attorney General's Office website [[LINK](#)]; last accessed February 24, 2026].

⁸ Document Code No.: ACO-8-32-EO [[LINK](#)]

⁹ ACO-8-32-EO, Section 1. [[LINK](#)]

2. Section 2. Allocated \$2 million to meet the emerging needs, such as rental assistance, legal aid support, or food assistance for immigrant, refugee, and asylee communities in the county.
3. Section 3. Directed the Sheriff's Office to develop guidance by March 16, 2026, about the planned response to potential unlawful action by federal law enforcement officers. This could include clear protocols for verifying law enforcement personnel who are not displaying credentials, creating documentation including body camera recordings, and how to respond to conflicts involving residents and federal law enforcement. The order also directed KCSO to produce publicly available materials about the roles and responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office and how to differentiate deputies from federal officers.
4. Section 4. Directed all departments to review policies and procedures to ensure adherence to the KWWA, the Courts Open to All Act,¹⁰ and K.C.C. 2.15. Also directed departments to support community education and "Know Your Rights" initiatives.
5. Section 5. Affirmed Executive Order PFC-7-1-1-EO and transparency at King County International Airport. The order further directed KCIA to upgrade and install additional cameras to provide greater transparency and submit a plan within 30 days to provide an improved observation space that would be available at all times during airport operations.
6. Section 6. Directed Executive departments to implement the following restriction on county-owned and county-controlled properties:
 - a. No civil immigration enforcement activities in the non-public areas of county-owned and controlled buildings or on other fixed-properties unless required by federal law. This restriction only applies to parking lots, vacant lots, buildings, and garages. These areas shall not be used for staging areas, processing locations, or operations bases for immigration enforcement activities.¹¹ This restriction specifically does not apply to public right-of-way used for pedestrian and vehicular traffic or the King County International Airport.

Section 6 also directed the Welcoming County Subcabinet to determine within 60 days if there are other county-owned and controlled properties where limitations on civil immigration enforcement would also be feasible.

¹⁰ The "Courts Open to All Act," found in RCW 2.28.300-2.28.340 generally prohibits warrantless civil immigration arrests inside or near courthouses. It also prohibits court staff and prosecutors from collecting immigration information and sharing immigration information to federal immigration officials except where required by state or federal law. [\[LINK\]](#)

¹¹ The Executive Order states "For purposes of this policy, "staging area" means an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and deploy vehicles, equipment, or materials, and related personnel, for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations. ACO-8-32-EO, Section 6. [\[LINK\]](#)

7. Section 7. Expressed that the Executive will work with the state's federal Congressional delegation "to advocate for no additional funding for ICE until they change their current dangerous and potentially illegal policies and procedures."¹²

The Executive Order was similar to executive actions taken both locally by City of Seattle's Mayor Katie Wilson, as well as in cities across the nation like Minneapolis, Chicago, and Oakland.¹³ There have also been similar legislative actions taken by city and county legislative bodies such as the Santa Clara County (California) Board of Supervisors and the City of San Jose (California) City Council.¹⁴

ANALYSIS

Proposed Ordinance 2026-0027 would limit the use of county-owned and controlled property as a staging area, processing location, or operations base, for civil immigration enforcement operations. To do this, the proposed ordinance would add to the definitions section of K.C.C. Chapter 2.15 along with a new section to the chapter outlining the limitations and steps for implementation.

New Definitions. Section 1 of the proposed ordinance would add the following definitions to K.C.C. 2.15.005:

- "County-owned and controlled property" includes:
 1. Nonpublic areas of buildings;
 2. Parking lots;
 3. Garages; and
 4. Vacant lots.
- "Operation base" means an area that is used to plan, coordinate, and execute civil immigration enforcement activities.
- "Processing location" means an area that is used for activities such as the identification, intake, processing of documentation, detention, arrest, or temporary holding of individuals in connection with civil immigration enforcement operations.
- "Staging area" means an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and deploy vehicles, equipment, or materials, and related personnel, for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.

Limitation on county-owned and controlled property. Section 2 of the proposed ordinance would add a new section to K.C.C. Chapter 2.15. The new section would:

¹² ACO-8-32-EO, Section 7. [\[LINK\]](#)

¹³ Seattle Executive Order 2026-03 [\[LINK\]](#), Minneapolis Executive Order 2025-02 [\[LINK\]](#), Chicago Executive Order 2025-8 [\[LINK\]](#), and Oakland Executive Order [\[LINK\]](#)

¹⁴ The Santa Clara Board of Supervisors directed the county administration on October 21, 2025, to report to the Board with a draft ordinance that restricts the use of county-owned and county-controlled properties for immigration enforcement. [\[LINK\]](#) The San Jose City Council adopted a resolution on January 13, 2026, prohibiting the use of city parking lots, vacant lots, and garages for immigration enforcement staging areas, processing locations, or operation bases. [\[LINK\]](#)

- Establish that except where state or federal law require, property that is both county-owned and controlled shall not be commandeered by federal authorities for use as a staging area, processing area, or operations base for civil immigration enforcement.
- Require the Executive to design signage templates for county agencies to use stating the limitation from the above bullet.
- Require the Executive to work with county agencies to classify property that could be used as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for civil immigration enforcement and also develop strategies to increase security for use properties
- Require county agencies to use physical barriers, where appropriate and resources allow, to limit access to county-owned and controlled properties.
- Require implementation procedures within 30 days of enactment. Those procedures would provide that any county employee who becomes aware of use of county property as a staging area, processing location, or operations base shall immediately report that to the department director and that director shall report it to the Executive. The Executive shall also provide a report bi-annually to the Council of these uses of county property.
- Require the Executive to design a signage template for private property owners to use, if they choose, that states "This property is a Stand Together King County partner. No agent of the federal government, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), may enter these premises for purposes of civil immigration enforcement, absent a valid judicial warrant or court order. This property may not be used for civil immigration enforcement operations, including as a staging area, processing location, or operations base." The ordinance further provides that the Executive will make available "know your rights" materials regarding entry of federal immigration officials but that property owners would use signage at their own risk.
- Clarify that the section does not apply to property that is subject to an existing lease.
- Clarify that nothing in the section would restrict or interfere with execution of lawful judicial warrants, court orders, or the enforcement of criminal law.

Comparison to the Executive Order. The proposed ordinance would codify the limitation on county-owned and controlled property found in Section 6 of the Executive Order. In terms of differences, the proposed ordinance would provide definitions for both processing location and operations base, which are not contained in the Executive Order. The Executive Order does clearly state that the limitation "only applies to County-owned and County-controlled parking lots, vacant lots, buildings, and garages" and specifically excludes public right of way and the Airport. The proposed ordinance lists what county-owned and controlled includes but does not specifically exclude the public right of way or the Airport. Finally, the proposed ordinance requires implementation procedures within 30 days while the Executive Order provides 60 days for the Welcoming County Subcabinet to determine if there are additional properties where limitations on immigration enforcement would be feasible.

Legal. Legal Counsel has reviewed the proposed ordinance and will be available for an executive session, if requested.



Signature Report

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2025-0368.2

Sponsors Perry

1 AN ORDINANCE authorizing the vacation of a portion of
2 a portion of 52nd Avenue South/Indiana Ave, file no. V-
3 2735; Petitioner: Whispering Woods Estates, LLC.

4 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

5 1. A petition has been filed requesting vacation of a portion of 52nd
6 Avenue South/Indiana Ave in the West King County Community Service
7 Area of unincorporated King County, hereinafter described.

8 2. The department of local services notified utility companies serving the
9 area and King County departments of the proposed vacation. Puget Sound
10 Energy, Comcast, Lakehaven Water and Sewer District, and WLRD have
11 identified facilities within the vacation area. The vacation shall not
12 extinguish the rights of any utility company or agency to any existing
13 easements for facilities or equipment within the vacation area.

14 3. The department of local services identified three properties that rely
15 upon the area proposed for vacation for access. Easements benefiting
16 these properties for continued access will be executed.

17 4. The department of local services's records indicate that this segment of
18 right of way is unopened and unmaintained.

19 5. The department of local services considers the subject portion of right
20 of way useless as part of the county road system and believes the public

21 would benefit by the return of this segment of right of way to the public
22 tax rolls and recommends approval of the vacation.

23 6. Pursuant to K.C.C. 14.40.020 and RCW 36.87.120, the value of the
24 vacation area is offset by the costs to King County to manage and
25 maintain this segment of unopened right of way and the present value of
26 future property tax resulting in a determination of no compensation
27 required for the vacation of approximately 21,690 square feet of 52nd
28 Avenue South/Indiana Ave right of way to the property of Petitioner
29 Whispering Woods Estates, LLC, King County assessor's Parcel Numbers
30 375160-6185, 375160-6180, 375160-6175, 375160-6165, 375160-6160,
31 375160-6155, 375160-6140, 375160-6137, and 375160-6139; and a
32 determination of no compensation required for the vacation of
33 approximately 1,686 square feet of 52nd Avenue South/Indiana Ave right
34 of way to the property of Non-Petitioner Fred Omer Walden Trust, King
35 County assessor's Parcel Number 375160-6134.

36 7. Due notice was given in the manner provided by law. The office of the
37 hearing examiner held the public hearing on February 3, 2026.

38 8. As detailed in the February 11, 2026, recommendation, the hearing
39 examiner found that the road segment subject to this petition is not useful
40 as part of the King County road system, concluded that the vacation of this
41 segment of road will benefit the public through the transfer of
42 responsibility for management and return of the property to the public tax
43 roll, and recommended approval of the vacation.

44 9. For the reasons stated in the examiner's February 11, 2026, report and
45 recommendation, the council determines that it is in the best interest of the
46 citizens of King County to grant said petition and vacate the right of way,
47 subject to the conditions stated below.

48 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

49 SECTION 1. The council, upon recording of this ordinance, hereby vacates and
50 abandons a portion of 52nd Avenue South/Indiana Ave right of way as described below:

51 All of 52nd Ave S. (Indiana Avenue) lying between Block 135 and Block
52 136, Plat of Jovita Heights according to the plat filed in Vol. 12 at page 20
53 of Plats, records of the King County Recorder.

54 Situate in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 35,
55 Twp. 21 N., Rge. 4 E., Willamette Meridian, King County, Washington.

56 Containing 23,376 square feet or 0.54 acres, more or less.

57 SECTION 2. Recording of the approved vacation is contingent on assuring
58 adequate access to the Trust Property, Stoltey property, PSE, Comcast, Lakehaven, and
59 WLRD through provision of access easements. The easements must either include the
60 Trust Property as a grantor or include acknowledgement from the agencies and Stolteys
61 that the easements from Petitioners do not include the area abutting the Trust Property to
62 the right-of-way centerline and that their access needs will nevertheless be met. Executed
63 easements must be delivered to King County within ninety days of the enactment of this
64 ordinance. Timely receipt of the signed access easements will indicate that all

65 contingencies have been met and the clerk shall record the ordinance, thereby vacating
66 the right-of-way.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. Hearing Examiner Report dated February 11, 2026

February 11, 2026

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Telephone (206) 477-0860

hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov

www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

SUBJECT: Department of Local Services file no. **V-2735**
Proposed ordinance no. **2025-0368**

WHISPERING WOODS ESTATES, LLC

Road Vacation Petition

Location: a portion of 52nd Avenue South/Indiana Ave in the West King
County Community Service Area of unincorporated King County

Applicant: Whispering Woods Estates, LLC (ATTN: Scott Horan)
represented by **Vicki Orrico**
600 University St., Suite 2430
Seattle, WA 98101
Telephone: (206) 676-7500
Email: vorrico@gth-law.com

King County: Department of Local Services
represented by **Leslie Drake**
201 S Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: (206) 477-7764
Email: leslie.drake@kingcounty.gov

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Overview

1. Whispering Woods Estates, LLC, petitions the King County Council (Council) to vacate an approximately 0.54-acre (22,965 sq. ft) section of public right-of-way on 52nd Avenue South/Indiana Ave between S. 368th St and the unopened right-of-way for S. 370th St in unincorporated King County. The Department of Local Services, Road Services Division (Roads), endorses vacation and proposes waiver of compensation.
2. On February 3, 2026, we conducted a remote public hearing on behalf of the Council. After hearing witness testimony, studying the exhibits entered into evidence, and applying the relevant law, **we recommend that the Council vacate the right-of-way, contingent on obtaining necessary easements, and not require compensation.**
3. We incorporate the facts set forth in Roads' January 20, 2026, Report to the Hearing Examiner ("Report") and in proposed ordinance no. 2025-0368. Exs. D1, D31. Roads' Report, and a map showing the area to be vacated and the vicinity of the proposed vacation, are in the hearing record and are attached to the copies of our recommendation submitted to Council. Exs. D1, D14-0007, D15.

Legal Background

4. Chapter 36.87 RCW sets the legal framework for county road vacations, augmented by Ch. 14.40 KCC which establishes the road vacation procedures in King County. To vacate a county road, state law requires factual findings that: (1) the road is useless to the county road system, and (2) the public will be benefited by the vacation. If those two conditions are met, then the Council has the discretion to vacate the road.
5. If the Council concludes that vacation of the right-of-way is warranted, State law allows the Council to require those benefiting from the vacation to compensate the county, up to the appraised value of the vacated road. The Council may reduce the compensation amount to account for the value of the transfer of liability or risk, the increased value to the public in property taxes, the avoided costs for management or maintenance, and any limits on development or future public benefit.
6. The legal description of the property proposed to be vacated is: All of 52nd Ave S. (Indiana Avenue) lying between Block 135 and Block 136, Plat of Jovita Heights according to the plat filed in Vol. 12 at page 20 of Plats, records of the King County Recorder. Situate in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 35, Twp. 21 N., Rge. 4 E., Willamette Meridian, King County, Washington. Ex. D33.

Is Vacation Warranted?

7. A petitioner has the burden to show that the “road is [1] useless as part of the county road system and [2] that the public will be benefitted by its vacation and abandonment.” RCW 36.87.020. “A county right of way may be considered useless if it is not necessary to serve an essential role in the public road network or if it would better serve the public interest in private ownership.” KCC 14.40.0102.B. Petition denial is mandatory where a petitioner fails to meet their burden, and approval is discretionary where a petitioner establishes uselessness and public benefit. RCW 36.87.060(1).
8. The subject right-of-way segment was originally dedicated to the County in the Jovita Heights Addition Plat recorded in 1911. There is no record of the area being opened, used, improved or maintained by King County as part of the county road system. Ex. D29-001; Drake Testimony.
9. However, unlike many road vacations, the right-of-way segment is currently constructed and used as a road to access multiple parcels along 52nd Ave. Petitioner improved the right-of-way in 2019, and those improvements were permitted by King County DLS-Permitting. Horan Testimony. The intended use for the right-of-way going forward will be a private road that will continue to serve the lots on 52nd Ave. *Id.*
10. Petitioner owns the majority of the lineal footage of the frontage of the right-of-way proposed for vacation. KCC 14.40.0104.B; Ex. D29-001. There are 10 parcels abutting the proposed vacation segment, nine of which are owned by Petitioner. Ex. D29-014.
11. The Fred Walden Trust property, Parcel # 3751606134, (hereinafter “Trust Property”) is the only parcel along the segment that is not owned by Petitioner. If the vacation is approved, the parcel would gain approximately 1,686 square feet from the portion of the property abutting the right-of-way to the centerline. Exs. D17-004; D29-007. This area would be privately owned by the Trust.
12. The Stoltey Property, Parcel #s 375160-6407 and -6503 (under common ownership), at the south end of the proposed road vacation also uses the privately improved road for access. The right-of-way appears to be their only means of accessing the two lots.
13. Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Comcast, Lakehaven Water and Sewer District (Lakehaven), and King County DNRP - Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) all identified the need for easements over portions of the proposed vacation area to preserve existing and/or future infrastructure. Ex. D1-002.
14. Notice was properly given of the public hearing and there were no comments submitted or public testimony at the hearing. Ex. D1-002; Ex. D16. In addition to the notice posted on site and mailed, the Petitioner testified that they tried to reach the owner of the Trust Property numerous times, unsuccessfully. Horan Testimony. Petitioner also represented that he has spoken with multiple people at the Stoltey property, they are aware of the proposed road vacation, and they have no objections based on the assurance that easements would be provided for their continued property access. *Id.*

15. In assessing uselessness and public benefit of the subject right-of-way, the Examiner’s primary concern with this petition is ensuring continued access for the non-petitioning property owners and agencies needing retained utility access.
16. It is relatively straight-forward to conclude that the right-of-way is useless as part of the county road system. The right-of-way has never been opened as part of the county road system and, to the extent it is needed as a road, the private development and maintenance of the subject area is a benefit that would not be provided by the County.
17. However, the decision as to whether the public would benefit, on the whole, from the vacation is complicated by the non-participation of the Trust Property and the need for access easements along the right of way.
18. A fundamental principle of reversion upon road vacation is that the vacated land area reverts equally to adjacent parcels within the bounds of the right-of-way. *See* V-2588 Hansen; V-2640 Peterson. The relevance of that principle here is that the portion of the right-of-way abutting the Trust Property, to the center line of the road, would revert in fee to the Trust as private property.
19. Roads has recommended that, to ensure continued access for the identified agencies and the Trust and Stoltey properties, Petitioner should provide access easements in favor of PSE, Comcast, Lakehaven, WLRD and Parcels 375160-6134, 375160-6407 and 375160-6503. But Petitioner is not the only entity that will have a property interest in the right-of-way if the vacation is approved.
20. The Council has authority to vacate the property without involvement or agreement of all abutting landowners. *Thayer v. King Cnty.*, 46 Wn. App. 734, 737 (1987). It cannot, however, require a property owner to then encumber the property that reverts to them with easements and covenants in favor of utility companies and private property owners. For access easements to be granted for the full area proposed to be vacated, a Trust Property representative must be involved and affirmatively grant those easements.
21. The Proposed Ordinance states that “The vacation shall not extinguish the rights of any utility company to any existing easements for facilities or equipment within the vacation area.” Ex. D31-01. But it is unclear how this assurance can be made without engagement with the Trust Property. The expectation that “owners” of the vacated property enter into the needed access agreements is reflected in the draft Declaration of Covenant provided by WLRD and it is not evident whether their needs would be met if only the Petitioner was the grantor for that covenant. Ex. D1-43.
22. There are two logical solutions to this problem. First, it is possible that adequate access for the Stoltey property and PSE, Comcast, Lakehaven, WLRD can be provided without use of the property that will revert to the Trust. Although this was not discussed at the hearing, a reasonable outcome here would be for the agencies and property owners who need access to agree that their needs are met without reliance on the property abutting Parcel 375160-6134 to the centerline of the existing right-of-way.

23. Alternatively, the trustee or legal representative for the Trust Property could be contacted and included as a grantor in the access easements needed for PSE, Comcast, Lakehaven, WLRD and the Stoltey Property. Testimony reflected that there have been multiple efforts to contact the trustee without success, so this may not be a viable option.
24. There may be more creative solutions that the Petitioner could suggest that would satisfy the same access needs and assurances, but for purposes of the recommendation here, I am limiting the options to the two solutions offered above. Specifically, the Trust Property, the Stoltey Property, PSE, Comcast, Lakehaven, and WLRD need to be assured adequate access through easements. Those easements need to:
- A. Include recognition by the Stoltey property, PSE, Comcast, Lakehaven, and WLRD that the Petitioner is only providing access to the extent it owns the property underlying the vacation area, and agreement by these entities that their needs are met without access to the 1,686 square feet fronting the Trust property;
 - OR -
 - B. Include the Trust property as a grantor of the access easements for these entities.
25. An access easement benefiting the Trust Property can be granted by Petitioner alone. Roads suggests that, as an alternative to providing easements to the Trust and Stoltey Properties, Petitioners could provide a “statement from the owners of the parcels declining such easements.” Ex. D29-002; Ex. D31-001. This is not recommended. The easements for ingress and egress should be secured as a condition of vacation irrespective of the current owners’ interest to ensure future access to these parcels. I would recommend the Council strike language in the Ordinance suggesting that the property owners could decline access easements. See Ex. D31-001, ln 19-20.
26. If these access easements are in place prior to recording of the vacation, the public will benefit from approval of this petition, with the savings expected from avoided management and maintenance costs and increased property taxes, as discussed below. Moreover, with the improvements already permitted and undertaken by the Petitioner, the road will better serve the public interest in private ownership. K.C.C. 14.40.0102.B.

What Compensation is Due?

27. Where vacation is appropriate, the county may require compensation up to the appraised value of the vacated road. The King County Assessor determines the increase in value due to the vacation for each abutting parcel separately.
28. Compensation is calculated by considering the increase in property values the receiving parcel will garner from the extra square footage from the area vacated. This amount, determined by the Assessor, is then adjusted by the county to reflect the expected value to the public from avoided liability risk, eliminated management and maintenance costs, along with increased property taxes. RCW 36.87.070; KCC 14.40.020.A.1. The King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB) created a model for

calculating these adjustments, updated annually. Roads then applies those figures to each impacted parcel. Ex. D22. This means that the appropriate level of compensation to require is an individualized inquiry, producing different results for different parcels.

29. There are 10 parcels that will have area added if the right-of-way is vacated. One of the parcels that would have area added is a non-petitioning party – the Fred Walden Trust parcel. The details of the additional areas to be transferred, impact to assessed value, and expected savings to the County are detailed for each parcel in Exhibit 29. The model estimates that for each of the parcels affected, the increase value to each parcel is less than the benefit to the County in reduced management and maintenance costs. As a result, Roads recommends waiving any required compensation.
30. The Examiner agrees with the valuation calculated for the 10 parcels at issue and supports Roads’ recommendation to waive compensation to the County should the vacation be approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Examiner recommends that Council APPROVE proposed ordinance no. 2025-0368 to vacate the subject right-of-way, with contingencies (and amendments to the ordinance reflecting these contingencies) and with no compensation requirement.
2. Any approval should be CONTINGENT upon assuring adequate access to the Trust Property, Stoltey property, PSE, Comcast, Lakehaven, and WLRD through provision of access easements. The easements must either include the Trust Property as a grantor, or include acknowledgement from the agencies and Stolteys that the easements from Petitioners do not include the area abutting the Trust Property to the right-of-way centerline and that their access needs will nevertheless be met.
3. Petitioners must deliver signed easements in favor of the Stoltey property, PSE, Comcast, Lakehaven, and WLRD within 90 days of the date Council takes final action on this ordinance. If King County does not receive the signed easements by that date, there is no vacation and the associated right-of-way remains King County’s. If the signed easements are timely received, the Clerk shall record the ordinance which will signify that all contingencies are satisfied and that the right-of-way is vacated.

DATED February 11, 2026.



Devon Shannon
Hearing Examiner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

A party may appeal an Examiner report and recommendation by following the steps described in KCC 20.22.230. By **4:30 p.m.** on **March 9, 2026**, an electronic appeal statement must be sent to Clerk.Council@kingcounty.gov, to hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov, and to the party email addresses on the front page of this report and recommendation. Please consult KCC 20.22.230 for the exact filing requirements.

If a party fails to timely file an appeal, the Council does not have jurisdiction to consider that appeal. Conversely, if the appeal requirements of KCC 20.22.230 are met, the Examiner will notify parties and interested persons and will provide information about next steps in the appeal process.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2026, HEARING ON THE ROAD VACATION PETITION OF WHISPERING WOODS ESTATES, LLC, LOCAL SERVICES, ROADS FILE NO. V-2735

Devon Shannon was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner’s Office.

The following exhibits were offered by the Department and entered into the hearing record:

Exhibit no. D1	Roads Services’ staff report to the Hearing Examiner
Exhibit no. D2	Petition transmittal letter dated July 6, 2020, to the County Road Engineer.
Exhibit no. D3	Petition for Vacation of a County Road received July 6, 2020.
Exhibit no. D4	King County Assessor’s information for Non-Petitioner Fred Omer Walden Trust property, APN 375160-6134
Exhibit no. D5	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6137
Exhibit no. D6	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6139
Exhibit no. D7	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6140
Exhibit no. D8	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6155
Exhibit no. D9	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6160
Exhibit no. D10	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6165
Exhibit no. D11	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6175

Exhibit no. D12	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6180
Exhibit no. D13	King County Assessor’s information for Petitioner Whispering Woods Estates LLC property, APN 375160-6185
Exhibit no. D14	Plat of Jovita Heights
Exhibit no. D15	Exhibit map depicting vacation area
Exhibit no. D16	Copy of final notice sent of review to agencies on 12/07/2020
Exhibit no. D17	Email exchange with Assessor’s Office regarding valuation of vacation area and copy of table indicating additional assessment for vacated areas.
Exhibit no. D18	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Non-Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6134
Exhibit no. D19	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6137
Exhibit no. D20	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6139
Exhibit no. D21	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6140
Exhibit no. D22	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6155
Exhibit no. D23	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6160
Exhibit no. D24	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6165
Exhibit no. D25	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6175
Exhibit no. D26	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6180
Exhibit no. D27	Compensation calculation model spreadsheet for Petitioner’s property, APN 375160-6185
Exhibit no. D28	Cover letter to Petitioners dated July 23, 2025, with a copy of the County Road Engineer’s Report
Exhibit no. D29	County Road Engineer’s Report
Exhibit no. D30	Ordinance transmittal letter dated November 21, 2025, from King County Executive to Councilmember Girmay Zahilay, Chair, King County Council
Exhibit no. D31	Proposed Ordinance
Exhibit no. D32	Declaration of Posting
Exhibit no. D33	Request for publication by Clerk of the Council

February 11, 2026

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Telephone (206) 477-0860

hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov

www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

SUBJECT: Local Services, Roads file no. **V-2735**
Proposed ordinance no. **2025-0368**

WHISPERING WOODS ESTATES, LLC

Road Vacation Petition

I, Jessica Oscoy, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that I transmitted the **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION** to those listed on the attached page as follows:

- EMAILED to all County staff listed as parties/interested persons and parties with e-mail addresses on record.
- placed with the United States Postal Service, through Quadient-Impress, with sufficient postage, as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to the non-County employee parties/interested persons to addresses on record.

DATED February 11, 2026.



Jessica Oscoy
Administrator



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0228.1

Sponsors von Reichbauer

1 A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of
2 Crystal Goodwin, who resides in council district seven, to
3 the King County board for developmental disabilities.

4 BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

5 The county executive's appointment of Crystal Goodwin, who resides in council
6 district seven, to the King County board for developmental disabilities, for the remainder

7 of a three-year term to expire on September 30, 2027, is hereby confirmed.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Health and Human Services Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Items:	5	Name:	Miranda Leskinen
Proposed No.:	2025-0228	Date:	March 3, 2026

SUBJECT

A Proposed Motion to confirm the appointment of Crystal Goodwin, who resides in Council District 7, to the King County Board for Developmental Disabilities, for the remainder of a three-year term to expire on September 30, 2027.

BACKGROUND

The King County Board for Developmental Disabilities is an advisory board that provides input on services and supports for children with developmental delays, adults with developmental disabilities, and the families of these individuals. The board is established under state law (RCW 71A.14.020)¹ and King County Code 2.32.020. The Board develops plans for developmental disability services, advises on funding priorities, shares information with community on developmental disabilities services, and advocates for funding and improvement in services. Board members include family advocates, self-advocates, professionals, and interested residents.

APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Crystal Goodwin works for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction as a Statewide Proficiency Initiative for Languages and Learning Liaison. As indicated in her application materials, she has several years of experience working with various nonprofits, as well as extensive professional experience supporting individuals with physical and developmental disabilities.

ANALYSIS

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointment, which appears to be consistent with state law and King County Code requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

¹ RCW 71A.14.020 allows that “The county governing authority of any county may appoint a developmental disability board to plan services for persons with developmental disabilities, to provide directly or indirectly a continuum of care and services to persons with developmental disabilities within the county or counties served by the community board.” Boards established pursuant to this RCW can have no fewer than nine and up to 15 members.

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0228
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Board Profile



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0253.1

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Dae
2 Degrade, who resides in council district nine, to the King
3 County behavioral health advisory board.
4 BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
5 The county executive's appointment of Dae Degrade, who resides in council
6 district nine, to the King County behavioral health advisory board, for the remainder of a

7 three-year term to expire on March 31, 2028, is hereby confirmed.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Health and Human Services Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	6	Name:	Miranda Leskinen
Proposed No.:	2025-0253	Date:	March 3, 2026

SUBJECT

A Proposed Motion to confirm the appointment of Dae Degrate, who resides in Council District 9, to the to the King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring March 31, 2028.

BACKGROUND

The King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) is a volunteer board developed in accordance with state law¹ and King County Code² that advises the County Executive and the County Council on mental health and substance use matters, as well as serves as the advisory body for both the Crisis Care Centers Levy and for the King County Behavioral Health Administrative Organization (BHASO) that oversees area behavioral health and crisis services.³

King County Code requires the BHAB to have no fewer than nine and no more than 18 members, as determined by the Executive. Members are appointed by the Executive, subject to Council confirmation of their appointment.

The Code requires that Board membership be broadly representative of the community and geographic and demographic mix of the populations served. A majority of the Board must include:

- Persons having lived experience with one or more behavioral health conditions;
- Parents or legal guardians of persons having lived experience with one or more behavioral health conditions; and
- Persons self-identified as being in recovery from one or more behavioral health conditions.

Board membership requirements in Couty Code further stipulates that:

¹ RCW 71.24.300

² KCC 2A.300.050

³ The King County BHASO manages the state non-Medicaid funded behavioral health system in King County including Crisis and Commitment Services (involuntary hospitalization and the Designated Crisis Responders), prevention services, Federal Block Grant funded mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and the Children's Crisis Outreach Response System.

- At least two members of the Board must be persons who have previously received crisis stabilization services;
- At least two members of the Board must be persons with professional training and experience in the provision of behavioral health crisis care;
- Law enforcement must be represented on the Board;
- The Board cannot include members who are employees and/or decision makers of contractors with King County, in its capacity as the BHASO, with a conflict of interest due to policy or fiscal decision-making authority on behalf of an impacted organization; and
- The Board cannot include more than four elected officials as members at any given time.

APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Dae Degrate works as a Behavioral Health Advocate for the Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy. As indicated in her application materials, her interest in serving on the King County BHAB stems from a deep commitment to advocating for equitable access to mental health and wellness resources within the [King County] community.

ANALYSIS

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointment, which appears to be consistent with the requirements of KCC 2A.300.050.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0253
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Board Profile



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0255.1

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of
2 Someireh Amirfaiz, who resides in council district nine, to
3 the King County mental illness and drug dependency
4 advisory committee, as a provider of culturally specific
5 mental health services in King County.

6 BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

7 The county executive's appointment of Someireh Amirfaiz, who resides in council
8 district nine, to the King County mental illness and drug dependency advisory committee,

Motion

9 as a provider of culturally specific mental health services in King County, for the
10 remainder of a four-year term to expire on June 30, 2028, is hereby confirmed.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	7	Name:	Miranda Leskinen
Proposed No.:	2025-0255	Date:	March 3, 2026

SUBJECT

Proposed Motion 2025-0255 would confirm the appointment of Someireh Amirfaiz, who lives in Council District 9, to the King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Advisory Committee as a provider of culturally specific mental health services in King County, for the remainder of a four-year term to expire on June 30, 2028.

BACKGROUND

The 37-member King County MIDD Advisory Committee (K.C.C. 2.130.010) is composed of separately elected officials, King County agency representatives, representatives of behavioral health service providers, managed care organizations operating in King County, and individuals with lived experience. The committee acts as an advisory body to the Council and the Executive.

In accordance with King County Code, the Committee is tasked with:

- Reviewing and providing written recommendations to the Executive and Council on the implementation and effectiveness of the county's MIDD sales tax-funded programs in meeting its goals;
- Reviewing and reporting to the Executive and the Council on annual evaluation reports for MIDD;
- Reviewing and commenting on emerging and evolving priorities for the use of MIDD sales tax revenue;
- Serving as a forum to promote coordination and collaboration between entities involved with MIDD sales tax programs;
- Educating the public, policymakers and stakeholders on MIDD sales tax-funded programs; and
- Coordinating and sharing information with other related efforts and groups.

APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Dr. Someireh Amirfaiz is the Executive Director for New Americans Alliance for Policy and Research (NAAPR) and has served on numerous community Boards and Commissions. According to her application materials, Dr. Amirfaiz has led organizations

across the Puget Sound that provide comprehensive services to refugees and immigrants, including licensed behavioral health services.

ANALYSIS

Proposed Motion 2025-0255 would confirm the appointment of Someireh Amirfaiz, who lives in Council District 9, to the King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Advisory Committee as a provider of culturally specific mental health services in King County, for the remainder of a four-year term to expire on June 30, 2028. Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointment, which appears to be consistent with the requirements of K.C.C. 2.130.010.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0255
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Board Profile



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0337.1

Sponsors von Reichbauer

1 A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of
2 Carrol Stripling, who resides in council district seven, to
3 the King County veterans advisory board.

4 BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

5 The county executive's appointment of Carrol Stripling, who resides in council
6 district seven, to the King County veterans advisory board, for the remainder of a three-

Motion

7 year term to expire on April 30, 2028, is hereby confirmed.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	8	Name:	Miranda Leskinen
Proposed No.:	2025-0337	Date:	March 3, 2026

SUBJECT

A Proposed Motion to confirm the appointment of Carol Stripling, who resides in Council District 7, to the King County Veterans’ Advisory Board, for the remainder of a three-year term to expire on April 30, 2028.

BACKGROUND

King County Veterans Program (KCVP). The King County Veterans Program (KCVP) has served low-income, homeless, disabled, at-risk veterans and their families since the 1950s. The KCVP is required by state law and is funded by King County taxpayers.¹ The KCVP provides numerous direct services including case management, financial assistance, housing assistance, mental health referrals, and other supportive services. The KCVP works collaboratively with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, the VA Regional Office, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), and various community organizations.

State law requires counties to maintain a veterans' advisory board to oversee each county’s state-mandated veterans’ assistance program.

From 2018-2024, the membership of the Veterans Committee of the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Advisory Board dually served as the membership of the state-required King County Veterans’ Advisory Board. In June 2024, the Council passed Ordinance 19780 to make updates to the VSHSL Advisory Board in accordance with recommendations from the 2024-2029 renewal VSHSL Implementation Plan (Ordinance 19719). These updates included, among other things, separating the state-required Veterans’ Advisory Board from the VSHSL Advisory Board’s Veterans Committee. Ordinance 19781 was concurrently adopted to establish the King County Veterans’ Advisory Board as a standalone entity, adding a new section to K.C.C. chapter 2A.300.

¹ State law (RCW 73.08.080) requires the legislative authority in each county to create a veterans’ assistance fund that is funded through a property tax of their respective counties. Per RCW 73.08.010(1), county veterans’ assistance programs shall be funded, at least in part, by the veterans’ assistance fund created under the authority of RCW 73.08.080.

Veterans’ Advisory Board Overview. Requirements relating to the composition, duties, and terms of the King County Veterans’ Advisory Board, which are identified in K.C.C. 2A.300.530, are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Overview of the Veterans’ Advisory Board Composition and Duties

<p>Board Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Advise</u> County on the needs of local indigent veterans and available resources and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families • <u>Advise</u> DCHS, or its successor, on the administration of the King County Veterans’ Program, the county’s state-required veterans’ assistance program (per Chapter 73.08 RCW) • <u>Meet</u> at least four times annually • <u>Elect</u> a chair annually from its membership 	<p>Board Composition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 members appointed by the Executive, in accordance with RCW 73.08.035, and subject to Council confirmation <p>Board Member Term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-year terms (after initial board) • Members are not allowed to serve on the Board for more than 4 consecutive years <p>Board Membership Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must reside in King County • Must be a veteran as defined in RCW 73.08.005
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APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Carrol Stripling is a military veteran and a member of several veteran organizations. Moreover, she has served on the VSHSL Advisory Board’s Veterans Committee (2017-2025).

ANALYSIS

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointment, which appears to be consistent with King County Code requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0337
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Board Profile



Signature Report

Motion

Proposed No. 2026-0017.2

Sponsors Mosqueda

1 A MOTION stating the council's support for continued
2 entheogen-related research for alternative treatment
3 modalities, structured medical models, and full
4 decriminalization of entheogen-related activities and
5 requesting that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of
6 any adult engaging in certain entheogen-related activities
7 be among King County's lowest criminal enforcement
8 priorities.

9 WHEREAS, entheogen is a term that encompasses any living, fresh, dried, or
10 processed plant or fungal material, including teas or powders, that may contain currently
11 scheduled or analog psychoactive indolamines, tryptamines, or phenethylamines,
12 including, but not limited to, psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca tea, mescaline, and iboga,
13 and does not include synthetic, chemically modified, isolated, concentrated, or analog
14 derivatives thereof, and

15 WHEREAS, depression, severe anxiety, problematic substance use, post-
16 traumatic stress, end-of-life anxiety, grief, isolation, intergenerational trauma, and other
17 physical and mental conditions are plaguing many communities, and scientific and
18 clinical studies show the benefits of entheogens in treating these conditions, and

19 WHEREAS, communities face unprecedented mental health crisis, unprecedented
20 suicide rates, especially among veterans and marginalized groups, and a deepening opioid

21 addiction crisis and the Washington state Legislature can contribute to removing stigmas
22 through public education and supporting community mental health efforts, and

23 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration-sanctioned clinical
24 trials show positive results that demonstrate the safety and efficacy of psilocybin assisted
25 therapy, and

26 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration designated
27 psilocybin-assisted therapy as a breakthrough therapy for treatment-resistant depression
28 in 2018 and major depressive disorder in 2019, and

29 WHEREAS, human cultures around the world recognize entheogens as sacred
30 and have used them as part of their cultural, spiritual, and religious practices for
31 generations, and

32 WHEREAS, a variety of jurisdictions in the United States, including the cities of
33 Olympia, Port Townsend, Seattle, and Tacoma and Jefferson County, have supported
34 decriminalization of entheogens, and Colorado, Oregon, and Washington, D.C., have
35 decriminalized some or all entheogens through successful ballot initiatives, and

36 WHEREAS, decriminalization of entheogens does not undermine the seriousness
37 of the opioid epidemic and impact of harmful substances on the lives of individuals,
38 families, and communities;

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

40 A. The council states its support for continued research for entheogen-related
41 alternative treatment modalities and structured medical models. The council further
42 states its support for the full decriminalization of the limited, personal, noncommercial

43 use and possession of naturally occurring entheogens by persons twenty-one years old or
44 older in nonpublic places at the state and federal level.

45 B.1. The council requests that investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any
46 persons twenty-one years old or older engaging in the limited, noncommercial cultivation
47 and possession of naturally occurring entheogens for religious, spiritual or individual
48 personal use be designated as among King County's lowest criminal enforcement
49 priorities, and further requests that county funds or resources not be used for
50 investigation, prosecution, or arrest of persons twenty-one years old or older possessing
51 or using entheogenic plants or fungi for religious, spiritual, healing, or personal use
52 practices.

53 2. For the purposes of this section B., "personal use" and "cultivation" shall be
54 limited to quantities and methods reasonably consistent with small-scale, individual,
55 noncommercial use and shall not include distribution, remuneration, repeated provision to
56 third parties, or the operation of organized production or supply networks.

57 3. The request is only intended to request King County sheriff's office designate
58 entheogen cultivation for the aforementioned purposes as among the lowest law
59 enforcement priorities in unincorporated areas. The request does not reflect any intent on
60 the part of the council for King County sheriff's office deputies in the Muckleshoot tribe
61 or contract cities to deviate from the tribe or contract cities' laws, procedures, or
62 priorities.

63 4. This section B. reflects the intent on the part of the council only to request the
64 King County prosecuting attorney designate cases under its jurisdiction for the
65 aforementioned purposes related to entheogens as among the lowest prosecution

66 priorities. This section B. does not reflect any intent on the part of the council to request
67 the King County prosecuting attorney decline to prosecute cases for this offense which
68 involve other substances or where the conduct has put public safety at risk. Further, this
69 section B. does not reflect any intent on the part of the council to limit the authority or
70 obligation of King County law enforcement, prosecutors, or emergency responders to act
71 when conduct presents an immediate risk to public health or safety, involving impaired
72 driving, violence, child welfare concerns, medical emergencies, or otherwise constitutes a
73 violation of state or federal law.

74 C. The council's passage of this motion does not reflect any intent on the part of
75 the council to support or encourage:

- 76 1. Driving under the influence of entheogenic plants or fungi;
- 77 2. Possession or distribution of entheogens in schools;
- 78 3. Use of entheogenic plants or fungi on any form of public transit or in public
79 places;
- 80 4. Possession, distribution, or sale of entheogenic plants or fungi by or to
81 persons under twenty-one years old;
- 82 5. Commercial manufacturing or sales of entheogenic plants or fungi; or
- 83 6. Conduct that puts public safety at risk.

84 D. Nothing in this motion shall be interpreted to alter, supersede, or limit the

85 application of state or federal law, or to confer any legal right, defense, or immunity
86 under such law, nor shall it be construed to create any private cause of action.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee**

REVISED STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	9	Name:	Nick Bowman
Proposed No.:	2026-0017	Date:	March 3, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Proposed Substitute Motion 2026-0017.2 stating the Council's support for entheogen related research passed out of committee on March 3, 2026 with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The Proposed Motion was amended in committee with Striking Amendment S1 to:

- **Change the definition of "entheogen" to include only naturally occurring plant or fungal substances;**
- **Clarify the term "personal use" to mean limited, non-commercial purposes;**
- **Clarify the motion does not reflect the intent of the Council to limit law enforcement personnel or first responders from acting to address entheogen related conduct which is harmful or otherwise illegal;**
- **Clarify that the Council's support for certain entheogen related uses is limited to persons 21 years and older and that the Council does not support entheogen use in public places; and**
- **Add a new section D. limiting the legal effect of the proposed motion.**

SUBJECT

A motion stating the Council's support for entheogen related research and the decriminalization of entheogen related activities, as well as requesting that County law enforcement actions toward certain entheogen-related activities be among the County's lowest priorities.

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2026-0017 would state the Council's support for continued research for entheogen-related treatments and for full decriminalization of the personal use of entheogens at the state and federal level. The proposed motion would also request that criminal enforcement actions against adults engaging in the cultivation of entheogens for certain uses and personal practices be designated among the County's lowest priorities.

BACKGROUND

Entheogen is a term that encompasses any living, fresh, dried, or processed plant or fungal material, including teas or powders, that may contain currently scheduled or analog psychoactive indolamines, tryptamines, or phenethylamines, including, but not limited to, psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca tea, mescaline, and iboga. There is well documented historical and cultural evidence that many entheogens have been used for religious, spiritual, and ceremonial purposes in various societies around the world.¹

In the United States, entheogens are generally classified as Schedule 1 substances making their possession and use illegal under federal law.²

Despite their illegality at the federal level, there is a growing body of scientific evidence showing potential medical and therapeutic benefits from the controlled, clinical use of entheogens for certain mental health conditions. The United States Food and Drug Administration designated psilocybin-assisted therapy as a breakthrough therapy for treatment-resistant depression in 2018 and major depressive disorder in 2019.³ More recently, a 2024 systematic review found that psychedelic substances, including psilocybin, LSD, ayahuasca, and MDMA, demonstrated therapeutic benefits for mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety, with psilocybin supported by the greatest number of studies.⁴

The potential therapeutic and medicinal benefits of entheogens has been cited by number of jurisdictions in Washington State which have passed resolutions supporting the decriminalization of entheogens for therapeutic and personal use, including the cities of Olympia, Seattle, and Tacoma and Jefferson County.⁵ Nationally, the states of Colorado, Oregon, and New Mexico have either decriminalized entheogen use or legalized entheogen use with a therapist or licensed facilitator.⁶

ANALYSIS

Proposed Motion 2026-0017 would state the Council's support for continued research for entheogen-related alternative treatment modalities and structured medical models and its support for the full decriminalization of the personal use of entheogens at the state and federal level.

The proposed motion also requests that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any adult engaging in the cultivation of entheogens for use in religious, spiritual, healing, or personal growth practices be designated among King County's lowest criminal enforcement priorities, and that County resources not be expended for such law enforcement actions. The proposed motion clarifies that these requests are limited to unincorporated areas and are not intended for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO)

¹ [Sayin, H.U. \(2014\)](#), [Bouayad, A. \(2019\)](#), [Malcolm, B. J., & Lee, K. C. \(2018\)](#).

² 21 USC 812: Schedules of controlled substances

³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37247807/>

⁴ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165178124001719?via%3Dihub>

⁵ [Olympia Resolution M-2549](#), [Seattle Resolution 32021](#), [Jefferson County Resolution 1923](#), [Tacoma Resolution 41609](#)

⁶ <https://psychedelicalpha.com/data/psychedelic-laws>

to decline the prosecution of cases for entheogen-related offenses which involve other substances or where public safety is put at risk.

The proposed motion further states that passage of the motion does not reflect any intent on the part of the Council to support or encourage:

- Driving under the influence of entheogens;
- Possession or distribution of entheogens in schools;
- Use of entheogens on any form of public transit;
- Possession, distribution, or sale of entheogens by or to minor children;
- Commercial manufacturing or sales of entheogens; or
- Conduct that puts public safety at risk.

In response to staff's inquiries regarding the proposed motion the PAO provided the following information:

"Drug possession cases have not been felony crimes since 2021 (when the State Supreme Court's Blake decision ruled felony drug possession unconstitutional; this was followed by a 2023 state law (SB 5536) which made drug possession and use a gross misdemeanor statewide). As a result, drug possession cases - street use cases - are handled at the city level by law. Law enforcement would only refer possession cases to [the PAO] if they occurred on state roadways or in unincorporated areas of King County. [The PAO's] focus is going after drug trafficking and drug dealing, particularly fentanyl and meth."

The King County Sheriff's Office responded with the following information:

"KCSO prioritizes its investigations on behaviors and circumstances that are unsafe for a person and/or other people in community and/or criminal in nature. If while interacting with someone [and] one of these substances are mentioned or encountered, deputies will typically note them in a report. If the substances are present, deputies will usually take possession of them for disposal. KCSO does not typically focus on the possession or use of entheogens as a sole reason for investigating or enforcing laws on someone."

KCSO conducted a search of its Mark 43 Offense database using the terms entheogen, psilocybin, and mushrooms for 3 years beginning January 1, 2023 and found 125 responsive cases where there was mention of these substances. Of the 125 cases there were 11 cases with enforcement[,] of which 10 were controlled substances cases where other narcotics or cannabis was involved and 1 was a DUI. In the remaining cases, if these substances were encountered, deputies typically confiscated them for disposal without further action."

AMENDMENT

Striking amendment S1 makes a series of changes to the underlying motion including:

- Changing the definition of "entheogen" to include only naturally occurring plant or fungal substances;

- Clarifying the term "personal use" means limited, non-commercial purposes;
- Clarifying the motion does not reflect the intent of the Council to limit law enforcement personnel or first responders from acting to address entheogen related conduct which is harmful or otherwise illegal;
- Clarifying that the Council's support for certain entheogen related uses is limited to persons 21 years and older and that the Council does not support entheogen use in public places; and
- Adding a new section D. limiting the legal effect of the proposed motion.