



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda

Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

Councilmembers:
Teresa Mosqueda, Chair;
Reagan Dunn, Vice-Chair;
Jorge L. Barón, De'Sean Quinn

Lead Staff: Sam Porter (206-263-2708)
Committee Clerk: Angelica Calderon (206-477-0874)

9:30 AM

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Room 1001

Hybrid Meetings: Attend King County Council committee 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 public comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Health, Housing and Human Services Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

There are three ways to provide public comment:

1. In person: You may attend the meeting and provide comment in the Council Chambers.
2. By email: You may comment in writing on current agenda items by submitting your email comments to kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov. If your email is received before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your email comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.
3. Remote attendance at the meeting by phone or computer: You may provide oral comment on current agenda items during the meeting's public comment period by connecting to the meeting via phone or computer using the ZOOM application <https://zoom.us/join>, and entering the Webinar ID number 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>	
--	--	--

You are not required to sign up in advance. Comments are limited to current agenda items.

You have the right to language access services at no cost to you. To request these services, please contact Language Access Coordinator, Tera Chea at (206) 477 9259 or email Tera.chea2@kingcounty.gov by 8:00 a.m. at least three business days prior to the meeting.

CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR:
Webinar ID: 842 7675 9952

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.

HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY: There are several ways to watch or listen in to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/kctv>, or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV Channel 22 (Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD), Wave Broadband Channel 22)
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone – See “Connecting to the Webinar” above.

To help us manage the meeting, if you do not wish to be called upon for public comment please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

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

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes** **p. 5**
Minutes of June 3, 2025 meeting.
4. **Public Comment**



Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
TTY Number - TTY 711.
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.



Discussion and Possible Action

5. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0107 **p. 8**

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Neal Black, who works in council district six, to the King County Housing Authority board of commissioners.

Sponsors: Balducci

Olivia Brey, Council staff

6. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0157 **p. 15**

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Eric Ballentine, who resides in council district five, to the King County veterans advisory board.

Sponsors: Quinn

Miranda Leskinen, Council staff

7. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0173 **p. 22**

A MOTION regarding the council's commitment to welcoming and actively supporting immigrants and refugees, and requesting a report evaluating the county's progress towards that commitment.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

Melissa Bailey, Council staff

Kayley Bebbler, Unaccompanied Children Program Directing Attorney, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Vanessa Reyes, Policy Manager, Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network

Guillermo Zazueta, Lead Field Organizer, OneAmerica

Briefing

8. Briefing No. 2025-B0082 **p. 55**

Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Sales Tax Funded Program Update

Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services

Susan McLaughlin, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Division, Department of Community and Human Services

Isabel Jones, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Division, Department of Community and Human Services



Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
TTY Number - TTY 711.
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.



9. Briefing No. 2025-B0101 **p. 56**

Entheogens: Supporting Recovery in Local Jurisdictions

Nathan Sackett, MD, MS, Director, Center for Novel Therapeutics in Addiction Psychiatry (NTAP)

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences | UW Medicine

Heidi Eisenhour, County Commissioner, Jefferson County

Corey Champagne, Heroic Hearts Project Integration Coach, Psychedelic Medicine Alliance of Washington Board Member

Other Business

Adjournment



Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
TTY Number - TTY 711.
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.





King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Minutes Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

Councilmembers:
Teresa Mosqueda, Chair;
Reagan Dunn, Vice-Chair;
Jorge L. Barón, De'Sean Quinn

Lead Staff: Sam Porter (206-263-2708)
Committee Clerk: Angelica Calderon (206-477-0874)

9:30 AM

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Mosqueda called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Councilmember Zahilay was also in attendance.

Present: 4 - Dunn, Barón, Mosqueda and Quinn

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember Dunn approval of the minutes of the May 6, 2025 meeting. Seeing no objections, the minutes were approved.

4. **Public Comment**

There were no individuals present to provide public comment.

Discussion and Possible Action

5. **Proposed Motion No. 2025-0144**

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Faisal Akhter, who resides in council district two, to the King County veterans advisory board.

Sponsors: Zahilay

Miranda Leskinen, Council staff, briefed the committee. Faisal Akhter, appointee to the King County Veterans Advisory Board, provided comments on their background and interest in serving on the board.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dunn that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Dunn, Barón, Mosqueda and Quinn

Briefing

6. Briefing No. 2025-B0081

Briefing: Federal funding cuts and threats to health, housing, and human services.

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, briefed the committee via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

7. Briefing No. 2025-B0087

Understanding the impact in King County of federal Medicaid cuts on care workers, healthcare systems, and county residents relying on Medicaid programs

Mike Yestramski, LICSW, AFSCME International Vice President, Northwestern Legislative District, President, WFSE/AFSCME Council 28, Nikkie Lee, Home Caregiver, SEIU 775, Danene Flower, CT Tech, MultiCare Auburn, UFCW3000, Sommer Kleweno-Walley, CEO, Harborview Medical Center, and Ian Goodhew, Senior Director of External Affairs, University of Washington Medicine, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Discussion and Possible Action

8. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0149

A MOTION expressing King County council's opposition to proposed federal Medicaid cuts and affirming support for care workers, healthcare systems, and residents who rely on Apple Health.

Sponsors: Zahilay, Mosqueda and Quinn

Sam Porter, Council staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members.

*Councilmember Barón moved Amendment 1. The Amendment was adopted.
Councilmember Zahilay offered and Councilmember Barón moved a verbal line amendment to the proposed motion. On line 21, after "1199NW," insert "UFCW3000".
The verbal amendment was accepted.
Councilmember Zahilay offered and Councilmember Barón moved a verbal line amendment to the proposed motion. On line 39, after "1199NW," insert "UFCW3000".
The verbal amendment was accepted.*

A motion was made by Barón that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Substitute. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Dunn, Barón, Mosqueda and Quinn

Briefing

9. Briefing No. 2025-B0083

Briefing on a proviso report required by Ordinance 19861, Section 52, Jail Health Services, Proviso P1, on the first of two reports on "postrelease jail health services plans".

Danotra McBride, Division Director, Jail Health Services, and Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Government Relations Administrator, Seattle-King County Public Health, briefed the committee via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____

Clerk's Signature



King County

Metropolitan King County Council Health, Housing, and Human Services

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Items:	5	Name:	Olivia Brey
Proposed No.:	2025-0107	Date:	July 1, 2025

SUBJECT

Proposed Motion 2025-0107 would confirm the Executive's appointment of Neal Black, who resides in council district six, to the King County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, for a five-year term to expire on May 22, 2030.

BACKGROUND

The King County Housing Authority (KCHA) was established in 1939 by the King County Council to provide "decent, safe and sanitary housing for those families unable to obtain such housing elsewhere." Housing authorities are authorized by state and federal law to issue tax-exempt debt to finance the acquisition, preservation, and development of affordable housing. KCHA is a municipal corporation and is governed under Chapter 35.82 RCW, which governs housing authorities.¹

A board of commissioners is responsible for making strategic decisions and providing oversight of statutory, regulatory, contractual, and financial obligations.² The KCHA Board of Commissioners is made up of 5 commissioners, appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council. Currently, Commissioner Douglas Barnes serves as the chair of the Board, but his term expired in May 2025 and he is not eligible for reappointment so a replacement commissioner is needed.

King County Code (K.C.C.) 2.88.015³ requires that at least one person appointed to the Board of Commissioners be an individual who is directly assisted by the KCHA. The KCHA refers to this position as the "resident commissioner". Additionally, appointees may not serve for more than two successive terms. Filling an unexpired portion of a term counts toward the two-term limit.

APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Neal Black works in council district six as a partner at Phinney Black LLP. He has over 26 years of experience as a lawyer, where he provides legal and strategic counseling to public and private companies. Mr. Black was elected to be a councilmember of the

¹ [Chapter 35.82 RCW: HOUSING AUTHORITIES LAW \(wa.gov\)](#)

² [US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

³ [K.C.C. 2.88](#)

Kirkland City Council in 2019 and re-elected in 2021. He also serves on a number of boards, including the Board of Trustees for the King County Bar Association, and the Regional Law, Safety, and Justice Committee where he serves as the Chair.

KCHA noted, "Mr. Black would provide valuable strategic advice and insight to KCHA as we work to address housing needs for the region's lowest income households."

ANALYSIS

If confirmed by the Council, Neal Black would be appointed to Position 5 for a full five-year term. Table 1 below shows the proposed composition of the Board.

Table 1. KCHA Board Profile

Pos. #	Name	K.C.C. District	Background and/or Representing	Date Appointed	Term Expires	# of Appointed Terms
1	Jerry Lee	6	Community volunteer	10/10/24	5/22/26	1 Partial
2	Tina Keys	3	Resident Commissioner	10/9/24	5/22/25	1 Partial
3	Richard Jackson	8 (Works)	Community volunteer	1/27/23	5/22/27	1 Full
4	Regina Elmi	9	Community volunteer	2/23/21	5/22/23	1 Full
5	Neal Black (Proposed)	6 (Works)	Community volunteer	To be determined	5/22/30	1 Full, subject to Council confirmation

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointment. It appears to be consistent with the requirements of the King County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Currently, there are two members of the KCHA Board of Commissioners with expired terms. KCHA staff noted that they are working on asking members if they are interested in reappointment and preparing for recruitment for vacant positions. K.C.C. 2.28.003.C. states that "[a]ny member whose term has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed [...]".

INVITED

- Neal Black, Appointee to King County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
- Jessica de Barros, Vice President of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs, King County Housing Authority
- Robin Walls, CEO, King County Housing Authority

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0107 (attachments available upon request)

2. Transmittal Letter for Neal Black
3. Board Profile



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0107.1

Sponsors Balducci

- 1 A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of
- 2 Neal Black, who works in council district six, to the King
- 3 County Housing Authority board of commissioners.
- 4 BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
- 5 The county executive's appointment of Neal Black, who works in council district
- 6 six, to the King County Housing Authority board of commissioners, for a five-year term

7 to expire on May 22, 2030, is hereby confirmed.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Attachments: None



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104

206-477-3306 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a proposed Motion confirming the appointment of Neal Black, who works in council district six, to the King County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, for a five-year term expiring May 22, 2030.

Mr. Black's resume, board profile, and appointment letter, are enclosed to serve as supporting and background information to assist the Council in considering confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed legislation. If you have any questions about this appointment, please have your staff call Tala Mahmoud, External Affairs Coordinator, at (206) 477-3306.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Tala Mahmoud, External Affairs Coordinator, Office of the Executive

Robbin Walls, Exec. Dir. / Kami Robinson, Staff Liaison

Neal Black

KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**DATE:** August 2024**TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 5**LENGTH OF TERM:** 5 Years

* *King County seeks to create an inclusive and accessible process for individuals who wish to serve on a King County board or commission. We strive to ensure that King County boards and commissions are representative of the communities we serve.*

BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

Pos.	Name	KCC District	Background / Representing	Initial Appointment	Term Expires	Number of Appointed Terms
1	Jerry Lee	6	Community volunteer		5/22/26	1 Full
2	Tina Keys	3	Resident Commissioner		5/22/2025	1 Full
3	Richard Jackson	8 (Works)	Community volunteer	1/27/23	5/22/27	1 Full
4	Regina Elmi	9	Community volunteer	2/23/21	5/22/23	1 Full
5	Douglas Barnes	1	Community volunteer	8/20/10	5/22/25	2 Full

BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED – SUBJECT TO COUNCIL CONFIRMATION

Pos.	Name	KCC District	Background / Representing	Initial Appointment	Term Expires	Number of Appointed Terms
5	Neal Black (pending)	6 (works)	Community volunteer		5/22/30	1 Full



King County

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

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	6	Name:	Miranda Leskinen
Proposed No.:	2025-0157	Date:	July 1, 2025

SUBJECT

A Motion to confirm the appointment of the following individual to the King County Veterans' Advisory Board:

- **Eric Ballentine**, who resides in Council District 5, to the Veterans' Advisory Board, for 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

Board Duties: <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	Board Composition: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 members appointed by the Executive, in accordance with RCW 73.08.035, and subject to Council confirmation Board Member Term: <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 Board Membership Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must reside in King County• Must be a veteran as defined in RCW 73.08.005
---	---

APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Eric Ballentine is a veteran of the U.S. Army and currently serves as the Program Director for the Minority Veterans of America nonprofit organization in Seattle. As indicated in their application materials, Eric has worked with veterans in a variety of fields including education, mental health, housing, and transitioning from military service to civilian life.

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 2025-0157
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Board Profile



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0157.1

Sponsors Quinn

- 1 A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of
- 2 Eric Ballentine, who resides in council district five, to the
- 3 King County veterans advisory board.
- 4 BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
- 5 The county executive's appointment of Eric Ballentine, who resides in council
- 6 district five, to the King County veterans advisory board, for a three-year term to expire

7 on April 30, 2028, is hereby confirmed.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Attachments: None



King County

Shannon Braddock

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104

206-477-3306 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a proposed Motion confirming the appointment of Eric Ballentine, who resides in council district five, to the King County Veterans Advisory Board, for a three-year term expiring April 30, 2028.

Mr. Ballentine's application, financial disclosure, board profile, and appointment letter, are enclosed to serve as supporting and background information to assist the Council in considering confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed legislation. If you have any questions about this appointment, please have your staff call Tala Mahmoud, External Affairs Coordinator, at (206) 477-3306.

Sincerely,

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
May 23, 2025
Page 2

Tala Mahmoud, External Affairs Coordinator, Office of the Executive
Bryan Fry / Joanna Bomba, Staff Liaison
Eric Ballentine

KING COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD**DATE: 5/23/25****TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 9****LENGTH OF TERM: 4 YEARS (INITIAL OF 2, 3, 4 - YEARS)****KCC 2A.300.530**

** King County seeks to create an inclusive and accessible process for individuals who wish to serve on a King County board or commission. We strive to ensure that King County boards and commissions are representative of the communities we serve.*

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Pos. No.	Name	KCC District	Background	Date Appointed	Term Expires	Number of Appointed Terms
1	Faisal Ahkter (pending)	2			4/30/29	
2	Peter Lewis (pending)	7			4/30/27	
3	VACANT				4/30/28	
4	Eric Ballentine (pending)	5			4/30/28	
5	Brian Berry (pending)	1			4/30/27	
6	VACANT				4/30/28	
7	VACANT				4/30/27	
8	VACANT				4/30/29	
9	VACANT				4/30/29	



King County

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

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	7	Name:	Melissa Bailey
Proposed No.:	2025-0173	Date:	July 1, 2025

SUBJECT

The proposed motion would express the Council's commitment to welcoming and actively supporting immigrants and refugees and request a report evaluating the county's progress towards that commitment.

SUMMARY

King County has enacted several policies regarding fair and equitable access to county services and resources as well as policies aimed at welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees. The proposed motion would reaffirm the Council's commitment to these efforts. It would also express support for the county's work to monitor federal actions that may target immigrant communities and prepare legal strategies in response. The motion would state that it is the Council's intent to consider additional resources for this work as well for other county efforts to support immigrants and refugees (such as deportation defense, citizenship programs, mental and physical health services, and know your rights trainings). The motion would also indicate that it is the Council's intent to consider legislation that would ensure county employees do not cooperate or assist with any registration or surveillance programs.

Additionally, the proposed motion would encourage or request things from: the Executive; the King County Superior Court, District Court, and Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO); and the Washington State congressional delegation. The Executive would be requested to: 1) have all county facilities post signage designating areas not open to the public to assist with the implementation of K.C.C. 2.15.020; 2) create and regularly update a centralized webpage with resources related to immigration issues; 3) consider establishing an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Assistance; and 4) provide a report within a year evaluating the progress of implementing these things. The courts and PAO would be encouraged to implement policies that endeavor to prevent or mitigate immigration consequences for immigrants and refugees at all stages of the criminal legal process. Finally, the congressional delegation would be asked to exercise oversight of President Trump's deployment of federalized National Guard and federal troops, including rescinding deployment orders and withdrawing military troops.

The sponsor has directed council staff to draft a striking amendment. To be considered at the Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee meeting on July 1, 2025, the striking amendment would need to be distributed by Thursday, June 26, 2025.¹

BACKGROUND

County Policies. King County has enacted several policies regarding fair and equitable access to county services and resources as well as policies aimed at welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees.

Fair and Just Principle. In 2010, the Council adopted an ordinance codifying definitions and directing implementation steps related to the fair and just principle of the adopted 2010-2014 Countywide Strategic Plan.² According to the County Code, "King County has transformed its work on equity and social justice from an initiative to an integrated effort that applies the county's principle of "fair and just" intentionally in all the county does in order to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and communities."^{3,4}

The County Code defines equity as all people having full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential.⁵ It goes on to list fourteen determinants of equity and states that access to these determinants "is necessary to have equity for all people regardless of race, class, gender, or language spoken. Inequities are created when barriers exist that prevent individuals and communities from accessing these conditions and reaching their full potential."^{6,7} The determinants of equity listed in the County Code touch on: community economic development, jobs and job training, housing, transportation, early childhood development, education, food systems, health and human services, healthy built and natural environments, parks and natural resources, neighborhoods with strong social networks, equity in county practices that eliminates all forms of discrimination in county activities, community and public safety, and a law and justice system that provides equitable access and fair treatment.⁸

K.C.C. Chapter 2.15 – Citizen and Immigration Status. In 2009, the Council adopted an ordinance which created a new chapter of the King County Code (K.C.C.), K.C.C.

¹ Per K.C.C. 1.24.155 Rule 16: Amendments.

² Ordinance 16948, known as the "Equity and Social Justice Ordinance".

³ K.C.C. 2.10.200

⁴ K.C.C. 2.10.210.F. "Fair and just" means the county serves all residents by promoting fairness and opportunity and eliminating inequities through actions to which equity and social justice foundational practices are applied. "Equity and social justice foundational practices" are defined in K.C.C. 2.10.210.D.

⁵ K.C.C. 2.10.210.C.

⁶ K.C.C. 2.10.210.B. "Determinants of equity" means the social, economic, geographic, political and physical environment conditions in which people in our county are born, grow, live, work and age that lead to the creation of a fair and just society. The definition also lists the fourteen determinants of equity.

⁷ K.C.C. 2.10.210.G. "Inequity" means differences in well-being that disadvantage one individual or group in favor of another. These differences are systematic, patterned and unfair and can be changed. Inequities are not random; they are caused by past and current decisions, systems of power and privilege, policies and the implementation of those policies.

⁸ A complete definition of the determinants of equity can be found in K.C.C. 2.10.210.B.

Chapter 2.15, relating to the ascertainment of citizenship and immigration status.⁹ The staff report at the time noted that the legislation was the first official policy document stating the provision of county services would not be conditioned on citizenship or immigration status, except as otherwise required by law.¹⁰ According to legislative documents, this chapter was created to:

- 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;
- Foster trust and cooperation between law enforcement officials and immigrant communities to heighten crime prevention and public safety; and
- Promote the public health of county residents.¹¹

Over the years, the Council has adopted several ordinances to amend and expand K.C.C. Chapter 2.15 with the most recent comprehensive set of changes occurring in 2018.¹² Table 1 provides a summary of the requirements currently in this chapter.

Table 1. Summary of K.C.C. Chapter 2.15 by Section

K.C.C.	Summary of Code Section
2.15.005	<u>Definitions.</u> This section defines words or phrases, including those specifically related to federal civil immigration enforcement such as “administrative warrant” and “civil immigration enforcement operation.”
2.15.010	<u>County Services.</u> Prohibits conditioning the provision of county services on the citizenship or immigration status of a person. Relatedly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applications, questionnaires, and interview forms used by the county shall not include questions requiring information related to citizenship, immigration, status, or national origin.^{13,14} - County agencies must accept state-issued documents marked as not valid for federal purposes or photo identity documents issued by the

⁹ Ordinance 16692

¹⁰ Staff Report for Ordinance 16692 dated July 1, 2009

¹¹ See Findings Section for Ordinance 16692 and Statement of Facts for Ordinance 17706 and 17886.

¹² 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, and 19892.

¹³ The Department of Public Health may inquire about or disclose information relating to a person's citizenship, national origin, or immigration status for the purpose of determining eligibility for benefits or seeking reimbursement from federal, state, or other third-party payers.

¹⁴ This section also notes that county agencies are prohibited from obtaining, maintaining or sharing information about a person's race, ethnicity, language proficiency, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, housing status, financial status, marital status, status as a victim of domestic violence, criminal history, release date from incarceration or confinement in a secure detention or other custody, or status as a veteran – except 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 (K.C.C. 2.15.010.G.).

K.C.C.	Summary of Code Section
	<p>person's nation of origin (such as a driver's license, passport, or other consul-issued document).¹⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County employees shall not inquire about a person's citizenship, immigration status, or national origin – but, if for some reason they must (due to state or federal law, regulation, or directive or court order or rule), they cannot coerce a response and must inform the individual of their right to decline to respond, free from fear or threat of retaliation. County employees are prohibited from verbally abusing persons or threatening to take immigration-related action against a person or their family members, including reporting them to ICE. <p>Throughout this section, it is noted that the requirements apply except as otherwise required by law. Nothing in the chapter is meant to conflict with state or federal law, be construed to prohibit any county employee from participating in cross-designation or task force activities with federal law enforcement authorities for criminal law enforcement, or be construed to prohibit any county employee, upon request of the noncitizen, from aiding a noncitizen to obtain immigration benefits pursuant federal immigration law.</p> <p>Finally, this section of code requires the Executive to ensure all county employees and agents are trained on these code requirements. A training titled "King County Immigrant and Refugee Ordinance Training" is available to county employees through NEOGOV.</p>
2.15.015	<p><u>Sheriff's Office.</u> The Sheriff's Office is prohibited from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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)¹⁶; - Using stops for minor offenses or requests for voluntary information as a pretext for discovering a person's immigration status; and - Initiating any inquiry of, or enforcement action against, a member of the public based solely on a person's civil immigration status, race, inability to speak English or understand the Sheriff's Office personnel, or hit on the National Crime Information Center database.
2.15.020	<p><u>Civil Immigration Enforcement.</u> 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. County agents, departments, and employees <u>shall not</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enter into any contract, agreement, or arrangement that would grant federal civil immigration enforcement authority or powers to the county or

¹⁵ This subsection of the code does not apply to documentation required to complete a federal I-9 employment eligibility verification form.

¹⁶ This section clarifies that, if a person offers up documents related to their civil immigration status in response to a general, nonspecific request, the Sheriff's Office may use those documents (K.C.C. 2.15.015.B.).

K.C.C.	Summary of Code Section
	<p>its agents or law enforcement officers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honor federal civil immigration detainer requests¹⁷ or administrative warrants unless accompanied by a criminal warrant issued by a United States District Court judge or magistrate; - Permit federal immigration officers access to nonpublic areas of county facilities, property, equipment or nonpublic databases, or nonpublic portions of otherwise public databases, or people in the county's custody absent a judicial criminal warrant specifying the information or persons sought. Warrantless attempts or requests for access shall be immediately sent to the department or agency director or their designee. Permission to access nonpublic areas without a judicial criminal warrant may be provided but only with the express, written approval of the appropriate person¹⁸; and - Provide personal information about any person to federal immigration authorities for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement, absent a warrant signed by a judge or except as required by state or federal law . <p>The Sheriff's Office and Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) shall not carry out a civil arrest, detain a person after the release date set by a court, or refuse to accept a bond based on an administrative warrant separately or in combination with a federal civil immigration detainer request.</p> <p>Additional requirements of DAJD include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If federal immigration officials are granted permission to access a county detention facility without a judicial criminal warrant, DAJD is required to provide the person in their custody with an oral explanation and written consent form that explains the purpose of the interview with immigration officials, that the interview is voluntary, and that the person may decline to be interviewed or may choose to be interviewed only with their attorney present. The form used must explicitly state that the person will not be punished or suffer retaliation for declining the interview. Immigration officials shall only be permitted to interview persons who have consented in writing to be interviewed (absent a judicial criminal warrant); - Upon receiving an ICE hold, notification, or transfer request, DAJD personnel are required to provide a copy to the person and inform the person whether the department intends to comply with the request; and - Consistent with Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, any person in custody or detention shall be informed (through their attorney) of the right to communicate with the consular post of the country of which they are a national, and informed that consular officers have the right to visit, converse, or correspond with the person, if the person wishes the communication. In all cases, identification as a foreign national shall be voluntary and based on informed consent.¹⁹

¹⁷ In the United States, the federal government sets and enforces immigration laws. As part of enforcement operations, federal agents have historically used booking and other information provided by local law enforcement agencies to identify noncitizens in local custody and then request an immigration hold (detainer) on certain individuals.

¹⁸ For any detention facilities that the county contracts with or leases land to for criminal or civil detention, this requirement (in K.C.C. 2.15.020.B.3.) must be included in the contracts.

¹⁹ According to DAJD, "[i]f a resident requests consular notification or DAJD becomes aware, without making an inquiry, that a resident is a Foreign National, staff follow the guidelines in DAJD policy 5.02.003, Booking of Foreign Nationals."

K.C.C.	Summary of Code Section
2.15.030	<p><u>Interpretation and Translation Services.</u> Requires King County and all its contractors to provide free interpretation and translation services to limited-English proficient (LEP) persons.</p> <p>Additionally, county agencies and offices are required to develop language assistance plans that identify which vital document and public communication materials need to be translated into languages for use by LEP persons – based on the top six languages identified by the tier map of LEP persons maintained by the Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice (OERSJ) and the county demographer.</p>
2.15.100	<p><u>Complaints.</u> 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 OERSJ.</p>
2.15.110	<p><u>Federal Law Compliance.</u> Federal law – specifically, 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1373 – limits the ability of state and local governments to ban sharing of certain types of information with federal immigration authorities. To acknowledge that the county fully intends to comply with federal law, this section states that "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 or local government agency information regarding the immigration status of a person or from maintaining such information."</p>

Immigrant and Refugee Task Force and Commission. In 2015, the Council adopted an ordinance directing the Executive to convene an Immigrant and Refugee Task Force (Task Force) to develop a final report with recommendations on the creation of an Immigrant and Refugee Commission.²⁰ In 2016, after meeting over a period of nine months and conducting more than 20 community meetings where they received input from over 500 members of immigrant and refugee communities, the Task Force provided a final report with recommendations.²¹ The Task Force recommended the county move forward with forming an Immigrant and Refugee Commission as well as establish an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to support the commission.

In 2018, the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC) was formally established.²² It is comprised of thirteen members and charged with acting as a central point of contact for connecting a broad group of stakeholders to identify, elevate, and develop shared strategies and solutions, streamline and strengthen efforts, and bring more resources to the most pressing issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities. The KCIRC is also responsible for understanding and addressing challenges faced by immigrant and refugee communities living in suburban cities and unincorporated areas of the county. A non-exhaustive list of the KCIRC's duties is

²⁰ Ordinance 18085

²¹ Report 2016-RPT0107

²² Ordinance 18653 and K.C.C. Chapter 2.78

provided in K.C.C. 2.78.020. To date, the county has not established an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Instead, the KCIRC is supported by staff from the Executive's Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice and the Council.²³

Additional County Legislation. In addition to the legislation establishing and amending K.C.C. Chapter 2.15 and K.C.C. Chapter 2.78, the County has adopted several pieces of legislation related to welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees. Table 2 lists some of these motions and ordinances.

Table 2. Additional Legislation Pertaining to Immigrants and Refugees

Legislation	Year	Description
M 11791	2003	A motion to endorse the aim of drawing attention to the importance of immigrant rights of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.
M 12293	2006	A motion establishing King County's support of and advocacy for comprehensive and effective immigration reform that respects established civil rights, ensures due process of law for immigrants, including freedom from racial profiling and enforcement that is neither arbitrary or selective, reunites and protects families, protects workers regardless of immigration status, offers a pathway to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants in this nation and therefore leads to the strengthening of our borders and national security.
M 14800	2017	A motion related to immigration, refugees and the freedom to travel; condemning the related Executive Order issued by the President on January 27, 2017.
M 14866	2017	A motion related to county services to immigrants and refugees, and the State Attorney General's Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement.
M 14946	2017	A motion calling on Congress to swiftly and comprehensively address federal immigration reform generally and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals in particular to protect the legal status of thousands of Dreamers.
O 18499	2017	A supplemental budget ordinance appropriating \$750,000 to address issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities, which included: providing culturally specific support services; shoring up funding for the Resilience Fund, which is a collaborative with the Seattle Foundation, the City of Seattle and other organizations to provide timely, flexible funding to address urgent needs of immigrant and refugee populations; and funding legal defense for immigrants with limited financial resources.
O 18544	2017	A supplemental budget ordinance including an additional \$250,000 to support legal defense for immigrants with limited financial resources.
O 18665	2018	In addition to making a comprehensive set of changes to K.C.C. Chapter 2.15 in 2018, this ordinance also created the Immigrant and Refugee Assistance Fund. This Fund, set in K.C.C. 4A.200.365, is a first tier fund managed by the director of the Department of Executive Services. ²⁴ Per County Code, the fund "shall be used to collect revenue from state, local and other funding sources and to expend direct service and related

²³ K.C.C. 2.78.070

²⁴ K.C.C. 4A.10.280. "First tier fund" means a fund that is invested for its own benefit and is listed or described as a first tier fund in K.C.C. Chapter 4A.200.

Legislation	Year	Description
		administration dollars to provide legal representation for indigent immigrants and refugees in deportation proceedings in immigration court and to support citizenship services for these citizens. The fund may also be used for English language classes for immigrants and refugees." According to Executive staff, this fund has never been used. Instead, moneys for these purposes have flowed through the Department of Community and Human Services.
M 15167	2018	A motion opposing the United States Attorney General's immigration policy that is separating families crossing the United States border.
M 15685	2020	A motion reaffirming the King County Council's support of unbanked money transfer operators and the immigrant communities they serve.
M 16106	2022	A motion declaring support for the Cities for Citizenship initiative and directing the Executive to sign the county onto the initiative as a participating community.
M 16108	2022	A motion requesting the Executive to develop a comprehensive response to the crisis in Ukraine – including consulting with the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission, and working with federal, state, and local governments and nonprofit partners, to provide support for refugees who may arrive in King County from Ukraine as a result of the conflict.
O 19770	2024	An ordinance establishing the King County Human and Civil Rights Commission. At least one member shall be a member of the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission or who demonstrates active and engaged civic participation in one or more immigrant and refugee communities and is well versed on the issues affecting those communities.

State Law. The state has also enacted laws aimed at protecting immigrants and refugees. Two relatively recent pieces of legislation, the Keep Washington Working Act and the Courts Open to All Act, are described below.

Keeping Washington Working Act. In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed the Keep Washington Working Act.²⁵ The legislation made several changes to state law for the purpose of "ensuring the state of Washington remains a place where the rights and dignity of all residents are maintained and protected in order to keep Washington working."²⁶ The legislation:

- Establishes the Keep Washington Working statewide work group within the Department of Commerce²⁷;
- Requires all public employees to serve all Washington residents without regard to citizenship or immigration status, or condition receipt of services based on citizenship or immigration status;

²⁵ E2SB 5497; Section 10, Chapter 440, Laws of Washington 2019. [\[LINK\]](#)

²⁶ E2SB 5497, Section 1. [\[LINK\]](#). The summary of the legislation is taken from the legislation itself as well as the Final Bill Report [\[LINK\]](#).

²⁷ Keep Washington Working Work Group [\[LINK\]](#). Also see the work group's [2020](#) and [2021](#) reports.

- Requires state agencies to limit the personal information an agency requests to only the information necessary to perform its duties, and requires state agencies to oversee their databases, including those maintained for the state by vendors, to limit the use of database information for immigration enforcement to the fullest extent permitted by state and federal law;
- Prohibits state agencies from using department funds, facilities, equipment, or personnel to participate in any federal registration or surveillance programs (or other laws, rules, or policies) that target Washington residents solely based on race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, or immigration or citizenship status;
- Prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies and school resource officers from providing information to federal immigration authorities for civil immigration enforcement or providing nonpublic personal information about an individual to federal immigration authorities in noncriminal matters unless required by law;
- Prohibits the state Department of Corrections (DOC) from taking a person into custody or holding someone in custody solely for determining their immigration status, or based solely on a civil immigration warrant or immigration hold request²⁸;
- Requires that any person in state or local custody, including those in community custody or DOC physical custody, be informed of their right to refuse an interview by federal immigration enforcement authorities and to refuse early release for the purpose of deportation. Additionally, the state must not accept language services, even at no cost, from federal immigration authorities; and
- Requires the state Attorney General to:
 - Publish model policies limiting immigration enforcement in public schools, health facilities operated by the state or its political subdivisions, courthouses, and shelters to ensure safe access for Washington residents regardless of immigration or citizenship status. These entities must either adopt the model policy or notify the Attorney General that it is not adopting the policy, state the reasons why, and provide a copy of its policies; and
 - Publish model policies, guidance, and training recommendations aimed at ensuring state and local law enforcement duties are carried out in a manner that limits, to the fullest extent practicable and consistent with federal and state law, engagement with federal immigration authorities for the purpose of immigration enforcement. All state and local law enforcement agencies must either make their policies consistent with the model policy or notify the Attorney General that the agency is not adopting changes, state the reasons why, and provide a copy of the agency's policies.²⁹

Open Courts for All Act. In 2020, the Washington State Legislature passed the Courts Open to All Act, which stated that "civil arrests at Washington court facilities have

²⁸ In accordance with federal law, state or local agencies or officers may send and receive information from federal immigration authorities and exchange information with other federal, state, or local government agencies about immigration or citizen status of an individual.

²⁹ The state Attorney General has provided model policies, which can be accessed on its website [\[LINK\]](#), along with a related frequently asked questions for law enforcement webpage [\[LINK\]](#).

created a climate of fear that is deterring and preventing Washington residents from safely interacting with the justice system." Additionally, the legislation noted that "the administration of justice depends upon all people having free and full access to the courts" and "it is essential that the state have policies providing safeguards protecting access to justice."³⁰ The legislation:

- States that a person may not be subject to civil arrest while going to, remaining at, or returning from, a court facility^{31,32};
- Establishes court processes in the event of state or federal law enforcement action at court facilities. "Law enforcement action" includes but is not limited to observation of court proceedings, investigation, questioning, and arrests by law enforcement agents acting in their official capacity. Processes include:
 - Designated court staff must immediately be notified if a law enforcement agent is present in the court for the purpose of conducting a civil arrest.
 - The governmental entity responsible for the security of the court facility is required to collect information from all on-duty state and federal law enforcement officers, including plainclothes officers, entering court facilities. Law enforcement officers participating in a case or proceeding before the court are excluded from the information collection requirement³³; and
- Prohibits judges, court staff, prosecutors, prosecutor's office staff, and court security personnel from:
 - Inquiring into or collecting information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status or place of birth (unless there is a connection between such information and an investigation into a violation of state or local criminal law). Additionally, judges may make such inquiries as are necessary to adjudicate matters within their jurisdiction;
 - Disclosing nonpublic personal information to immigration authorities, except as required by law; and
 - Notifying federal immigration authorities of the presence of individuals attending proceedings or accessing court services in court facilities, unless required by federal law or court order.

³⁰ SHB 2567; Chapter 37, Laws of 2020 [\[LINK\]](#). The summary of the legislation is taken from the legislation itself as well as the Final Bill Report [\[LINK\]](#).

³¹ "Civil arrest" is defined as the arrest of a person for an alleged violation of civil law. It is not an arrest for an alleged violation of criminal law, nor is it an arrest for contempt of the court in which a court proceeding is taking place or will be taking place. "Going to" and "returning from" a facility includes the area within one mile of the facility.

³² Does not apply to arrests made pursuant to a valid court order, or in the interests of imminent risk to public safety, or pursuant to a warrantless arrest permitted by state law. Prior to any civil arrest, a designated judicial officer must review the court order authorizing the civil arrest.

³³ The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was charged with creating a standard form for the collection of the required information, which must include: name of the law enforcement officer, agency, date, time, the specific law enforcement purpose, and the proposed law enforcement action to be taken. Completed forms must be transmitted to the AOC monthly; the AOC must publish the information quarterly. The form along with related information (quarterly reports, frequently asked questions, etc) can be found on the AOC's resource page on its website under "Civil Arrests at Courthouses".[\[LINK\]](#)

It should be noted that the King County Superior Court first instituted an immigration policy on April 22, 2008. According to court staff, the policy remains in place and can be found on the court's website.³⁴ The policy reads as follows:

The King County Superior Court judges affirm the principle that our courts must remain open and accessible for all individuals and families to resolve disputes under the rule of law. It is the policy of the King County Superior Court that warrants for the arrest of individuals based on their immigration status shall not be executed within any of the King County Superior Court courtrooms unless directly ordered by the presiding judicial officer and shall be discouraged in the King County Superior Court courthouses unless the public's safety is at immediate risk. Each judicial officer remains responsible for enforcing this policy within his or her courtroom. This policy does not prohibit law enforcement from executing warrants when public safety is at immediate risk.

ANALYSIS

The proposed motion has nine sections (A through I), which are summarized below.

Section A would state that the "council remains committed to welcoming and actively supporting immigrants and refugees from all nationalities, religions, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, races, and backgrounds – regardless of political preference – with policies, programs, and dedicated resources that foster inclusion, meaningful participation, and economic opportunity for all."

Section B would articulate the Council's intent to consider legislation "to ensure county employees will not cooperate or assist with any registration or surveillance programs or any other rules or policies that conflict with federal, state, or local laws and are targeted at immigrants and refugees, regardless of immigration status."

Section C would request the following of the Executive:

1. Have all county facilities post signage clearly designating areas that are not open to the public to assist employees with implementing K.C.C. 2.15.020, which requires employees to immediately refer warrantless attempts or requests for access to county facilities, property, equipment, nonpublic databases, nonpublic portions of otherwise public databases, or people in the County's custody to the department or agency director.
2. Create and regularly update a centralized county webpage with links to vetted resources related to immigration issues, including information on civil liberties and constitutional rights and information in multiple languages. It also directs the centralized webpage to link to existing county webpages with immigration and language access information (such as the webpages maintained by the Sheriff's

³⁴ King County Superior Court, Immigration Policy, Resolution passed at the April 22, 2008 Superior Court Judges' Meeting. [\[LINK\]](#)

Office, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Community and Human Services, and the Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice).

3. Consider establishing an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Assistance. The motion suggests this office work with "community partners, county departments, and the Equity and Social Justice Ordinance to define and achieve desired outcomes for county investments for immigrants and refugees". It goes on to suggest setting specific measurable outcomes related to: employment, economic development, public health, student achievement, citizenship, public safety, criminal justice, civic engagement, and protection of civil rights.

Per the County Charter, an administrative office would need to be established via ordinance.³⁵ The Council may wish to consider an amendment to clarify that the Executive would need to transmit an ordinance for the Council's consideration should she wish to establish an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Assistance. Additionally, the Council may wish to explicitly name the Immigrant and Refugee Commission as one of the partners to include in this work.

Section D would express the Council's support for the King County Superior Court, District Court, and Prosecuting Attorney's efforts to fully comply with the Courts Open to All Act. It also would encourage the "implementation of policies that endeavor to prevent and/or mitigate immigration consequences for immigrants and refugees at all stages of the criminal legal process, and take into consideration whether noncitizen residents may face harsher punishments than U.S. citizens solely due to their immigration status."

Section E would state the Council's support of the county's efforts to monitor federal actions that may target immigrant communities and prepare legal strategies in response. It would also note that the Council will consider allocating additional resources for this purpose.

Subsection F would state that the Council commits to expanding investments in the county's efforts to support immigrants and refugees, including but not limited to: deportation defense, rapid response efforts coordinated with local city and Washington State agencies, citizenship programs, English language learning and workforce development programs, language access, mental and physical health services, food security, and investments to combat displacement as well as know your rights trainings for county staff, contracted community organizations, and immigrants and refugees.

Subsection G would reaffirm the Council's commitment to ensuring that the county is in full compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act, the Courts Open to All Act, and K.C.C. Chapter 2.15. It would also express support for "the efforts of elected officials and staff in local jurisdictions within the county and throughout Washington State in complying with the state laws and developing policies that further protect populations

³⁵ King County Charter Article I, Section 140, Article II, Section 220.20, Article III, Section 320.20 , and Article III, Section 350

whose rights may be abrogated and interests harmed by the federal government, including but not limited to immigrants and refugees."

Subsection H would condemn President Trump's deployment of federalized National Guard and federal troops into the City of Los Angeles in response to protests for immigrants' rights. It would also request that Washington State's congressional delegation take steps to exercise oversight of the deployment of federalized troops, rescind the deployment order, and withdraw military troops.

Subsection I would request that the Executive file a report evaluating the progress implementing Section B and Section C of the motion within one year of the motion's passage. It would direct the Executive to consult with the Immigrant and Refugee Commission and community-based organizations contracted by the county to provide services to immigrant and refugee communities when drafting the report.

Section B of the proposed motion would articulate the Council's intent to consider legislation related to registration and surveillance programs while Section C would request several things of the Executive. If the Council's intent is to have the Executive report only on progress implementing Section C (and not the Council's progress implementing Section B), then Council may wish to amend the proposed motion to remove reference to Section B when listing report requirements.

AMENDMENT

At the direction of the sponsor, council staff has drafted a striking amendment that would correct drafting errors. It would also:

- Add two whereas statements:
 - One that acknowledges the Washington state Attorney General's Office has issued model policies and recommendations to help public institutions comply with state laws limiting state and local participation in immigration enforcement activity; and
 - One that recognizes immigrant and refugee women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and gender-diverse people face unique, intersecting barriers to safety, economic opportunity, and digital inclusion, and commits to gender justice and advancing the needs of survivors of gender-based violence, which is recognized as a push factor of migration.
- Amend the following sections:
 - Section A to include reference to codesigned programs and add that the work to welcome immigrant and refugee communities will be done "in partnership with immigrant-led organizations, ensuring services are trauma-informed, and culturally competent".
 - Section B so that the language used mirrors the language in the Keep Washington Working Act.
 - Section C.2 to remove reference to specific county websites and to clarify that the websites should be vetted for accuracy and currency.

- Section C.3. so that, instead of requesting the Executive to consider creating an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Assistance, it requests the Executive to consider increasing staffing for the Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice to enhance outreach to and engagement with immigrant and refugee communities. Also requests the Language Access Team within OERSJ work with stakeholders to ensure all public safety, victim support, and legal navigation resources are available digitally and in multiple languages, with special attention to the needs of women and non-binary people experiencing violence or discrimination.
- Section I (now Section J) so that the report requested from the Executive is limited to the requests made of the Executive in Section C of the motion.
- Add a section to express the Council's support of the Department of Elections continued use of best practices to keep the county's voter systems accessible to voting-eligible residents from immigrant backgrounds and multi-lingual voters.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2025-0173
2. Striking Amendment S1



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0173.1

Sponsors Mosqueda

1 A MOTION regarding the council's commitment to
2 welcoming and actively supporting immigrants and
3 refugees, and requesting a report evaluating the county's
4 progress towards that commitment.

5 WHEREAS, according to the 2023 American Community Survey conducted by
6 the United States Census Bureau, King County is home to approximately five hundred
7 eighty-six thousand foreign-born residents from every corner of the world totaling over a
8 quarter of the county's population, and

9 WHEREAS, immigrants and refugees enhance the county's cultural richness and
10 economic vitality with, according to a 2020 report from the Keep Washington Working
11 workgroup, immigrant-owned businesses in Washington State generating over \$2.3
12 billion in annual revenue and creating thousands of jobs, and immigrant households
13 across the state paying an estimated \$9.7 billion in federal taxes and \$3.9 billion in state
14 taxes, and

15 WHEREAS, many immigrant residents of King County, including those who are
16 not currently able to obtain lawful permanent residence, or live in mixed-status families,
17 may be fearful for their lives due to federal anti-immigration laws and are especially
18 vulnerable to discrimination, hate crimes, racial profiling, and deportation, and

19 WHEREAS, King County seeks to provide all of its residents fair and equal
20 access to services, opportunities, and protection irrespective of origins or immigrant or
21 refugee status, and

22 WHEREAS, in 2009, King County enacted Ordinance 16692 prohibiting a county
23 office, department, employee, agency, or agent from using the citizenship or immigration
24 status of any individual to condition the provision of county services, except where
25 required by federal law, and also prohibiting the sheriff's office from requesting specific
26 documents relating to a person's civil immigration status for the sole purpose of
27 determining whether the individual has violated federal civil immigration laws, and

28 WHEREAS, in 2010, King County enacted Ordinance 16948, known as the
29 "Equity and Social Justice Ordinance", which used the countywide strategic plan's
30 principle of "fair and just" to integrate equity and social justice into all the county does in
31 order to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and communities, and

32 WHEREAS, in 2014, King County enacted Ordinance 17886 ending the honoring
33 of civil immigration hold requests from the United States Immigration and Customs
34 Enforcement for individuals in the custody of the department of adult and juvenile
35 detention, and

36 WHEREAS, in 2017, King County enacted Ordinance 18499 appropriating
37 \$750,000 to address issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities, which
38 included: providing culturally specific support services; shoring up funding for the
39 Resilience Fund, which is a collaborative with the Seattle Foundation, the city of Seattle
40 and other organizations to provide timely, flexible funding to address urgent needs of
41 immigrant and refugee populations; and funding legal defense for immigrants with

42 limited financial resources, and later that same year enacted Ordinance 18544 to
43 appropriate an additional \$250,000 to support legal defense for immigrants with limited
44 financial resources, and

45 WHEREAS, this was one-time funding which was then made ongoing through
46 funding from the Veterans, Seniors, & Human Services Levy that voters approved in
47 2017 (and renewed in 2023), so that this support for immigrant and refugee services has
48 been continued to this day as part of that levy, and

49 WHEREAS, in 2017, King County enacted Ordinance 18653 establishing the
50 Immigrant and Refugee Commission so the county can better serve its immigrant and
51 refugee communities, including many who have come to King County because they have
52 been persecuted or feared they would be persecuted on account of race, ethnicity,
53 religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social or political group, and

54 WHEREAS, in 2017, King County enacted Ordinance 18665 establishing
55 requirements for how county agencies, offices, and employees will provide services to
56 immigrants; requiring all county agencies to develop plans to provide communications
57 and vital documents in the top six non-English languages used in King County as
58 identified by the office of equity and racial and social justice and the county
59 demographer; and establishing an immigrants and refugee assistance fund to provide
60 legal representation for indigent immigrants and refugees in deportation proceedings in
61 immigration court and to support citizenship services for these residents and for English
62 language classes for immigrants and refugees, and

63

64 WHEREAS, Chapter 440, Laws of 2019, known as the Keep Washington
65 Working Act, in part, restricts the extent to which local law enforcement agencies may
66 participate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws, and

67 WHEREAS, Chapter 37, Laws of Washington 2020, the Courts Open to All Act,
68 among other protections for immigrants and refugees interacting with the court system,
69 prohibits judges, court staff, prosecutors, prosecutor's office staff, and court security
70 personnel from inquiring into or collecting information about an individual's immigration
71 or citizenship status or place of birth, and from disclosing nonpublic personal information
72 to immigration authorities, except as required by law, and

73 WHEREAS, in 2022, the council passed Motion 16106 declaring support for the
74 Cities for Citizenship initiative and directing the executive to sign the county onto the
75 initiative as a participating community, and

76 WHEREAS, King County is in the process of standing up a Human and Civil
77 Rights Commission, which is intended to strengthen the county's anti-discrimination
78 policies and protections; ensure equitable allocation of county resources; and engage
79 robustly with diverse communities in the county, and will include a representative who is
80 active and engaged with an immigrant or refugee community, and

81 WHEREAS, King County is committed to continue building a welcoming, safe,
82 and hate-free environment in communities, where all immigrants and refugees are
83 welcomed, accepted, and valued; and to encourage business leaders, civic groups,
84 community institutions, and residents to join in a community-wide effort to adopt policies
85 and practices that promote belonging, inclusion and equity;

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

87 A. The council remains committed to welcoming and actively supporting
88 immigrants and refugees from all nationalities, religions, ethnicities, gender identities,
89 sexual orientations, races, and backgrounds – regardless of political preference – with
90 policies, programs, and dedicated resources that foster inclusion, meaningful
91 participation, and economic opportunity for all.

92 B. In alignment with the Keep Washington Working Act, it is the intent of the
93 council to consider legislation to ensure county employees will not cooperate or assist
94 with any registration or surveillance programs or any other rules or policies that conflict
95 with federal, state, or local laws and are targeted at immigrants and refugees, regardless
96 of immigration status.

97 C. The council values the executive's partnership in supporting immigrants and
98 refugees in King County and respectfully requests the following:

99 1. All county facilities post signage clearly designating areas that are not open
100 to the public to assist county employees in implementing K.C.C. 2.15.020, which requires
101 employees to immediately refer warrantless attempts or requests for access to county
102 facilities, property, equipment or nonpublic databases, or nonpublic portions of otherwise
103 public databases, or people in King County's custody to the department or agency
104 director.

105 2. To increase access to timely information and diminish disinformation, create
106 and regularly update a centralized county webpage with links to vetted resources related
107 to immigration issues for residents, including information on civil liberties and
108 constitutional rights and resources in multiple languages, including the top six languages
109 identified by the tier map of limited-English-proficient persons maintained by the office

of equity and racial and social justice and the county demographer. The centralized webpage should also link to existing county webpages with information for immigrants and refugees such as the sheriff's webpage with information on the U visa and T visa programs, the department of public health's webpage listing resources for residents without documentation, the department of community and human services' self-serve database also referred to as the King County resource access self-service site, and the office of equity and racial and social justice's webpage on the county's language access program.

4. Consider establishing an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Assistance tasked with working with community partners, county departments, and the Equity and Social Justice Ordinance to define and achieve desired outcomes for county investments for immigrant and refugees, including setting specific measurable outcomes related to employment, economic development, public health, student achievement, citizenship, public safety, and criminal justice, civic engagement, and protection of civil rights. The Office should also coordinate and facilitate county efforts aimed at improving services and better engaging immigrant and refugee communities. The Office should work in partnership with other county departments, government agencies, community organizations, and the private sector to advance the mission of the Office in a manner consistent with the county's Equity and Social Justice Ordinance.

D. The council supports the superior court, district court, and prosecuting attorney's efforts to fully comply with the Courts Open to All Act and other relevant state law and encourages the implementation of policies and practices that endeavor to prevent and/or mitigate immigration consequences for immigrants and refugees at all stages of

the criminal legal process, and take into consideration whether noncitizen residents may face harsher punishments than U.S. citizens solely due to their immigration status.

E. The council fully backs the county's efforts to monitor federal actions that may target immigrant communities and prepare legal strategies in response. The council will consider allocating additional resources to support this critical work.

F. The council commits to expanding investments in the county's efforts to support immigrants and refugees, including but not limited to: deportation defense, rapid response efforts coordinated with local city and Washington state agencies, citizenship programs, English language learning and workforce development programs, language access, mental and physical health services, food security, and investments to combat displacement as well as know your rights trainings for county staff, contracted community organizations, and immigrants and refugees.

G. The council reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that the county is in full compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act, the Courts Open to All Act, and chapter 2.15 of the King County Code. The council supports the efforts of elected officials and staff in local jurisdictions within the county and throughout Washington State in complying with the state laws and developing policies that further protect populations whose rights may be abrogated and interests harmed by the federal government, including but not limited to immigrants and refugees.

H. The council condemns President Trump's deployment of federalized National Guard and federal troops into Los Angeles in response to protests for immigrants' rights; this action is a dangerous abuse of power. The council respectfully requests that Washington's Congressional delegation take steps to exercise oversight of the

156 deployment of federalized troops and to take steps to rescind the deployment order and
157 withdraw military troops from our communities.

158 I. The executive should file a report evaluating the county's progress in
159 implementing section B and section C of this motion within one year of this motion's
160 passage. The executive should consult with the Immigrant and Refugee Commission and
161 community-based organizations contracted by the county to provide services to
162 immigrant and refugee communities when drafting the report. The report should be filed
163 in the form of an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an
164 electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief
165 of staff, and the lead staff for the committee of the whole, or its successor.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Motion

Attachments: None

S1

June 17, 2025

Technical

Sponsor: Mosqueda

[M. Bailey]

Proposed No.: 2025-01731 **STRIKING AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2025-0173, VERSION 1**

2 On page 1, beginning on line 5, strike everything through page 8, line 165, and insert:

3 "WHEREAS, according to the 2023 American Community Survey conducted by
 4 the United States Census Bureau, King County is home to approximately five hundred
 5 eighty-six thousand foreign-born residents from every corner of the world totaling over a
 6 quarter of the county's population, and

7 WHEREAS, immigrants and refugees enhance the county's cultural richness and
 8 economic vitality with, according to a 2020 report from the Keep Washington Working
 9 workgroup, immigrant-owned businesses in Washington state generating over \$2.3
 10 billion in annual revenue and creating thousands of jobs, and immigrant households
 11 across the state paying an estimated \$9.7 billion in federal taxes and \$3.9 billion in state
 12 taxes, and

13 WHEREAS, many immigrant residents of King County, including those who are
 14 not currently able to obtain lawful permanent residence, or live in mixed-status families,
 15 may be fearful for their lives due to federal anti-immigration laws and are especially
 16 vulnerable to discrimination, hate crimes, racial profiling, and deportation, and

17 WHEREAS, King County seeks to provide all of its residents fair and equal
18 access to services, opportunities, and protection irrespective of origins or immigrant or
19 refugee status, and

20 WHEREAS, in 2009, King County enacted Ordinance 16692 prohibiting a county
21 office, department, employee, agency, or agent from using the citizenship or immigration
22 status of any individual to condition the provision of county services, except where
23 required by federal law, and also prohibiting the sheriff's office from requesting specific
24 documents relating to a person's civil immigration status for the sole purpose of
25 determining whether the individual has violated federal civil immigration laws, and

26 WHEREAS, in 2010, King County enacted Ordinance 16948, known as the
27 "Equity and Social Justice Ordinance", which used the countywide strategic plan's
28 principle of "fair and just" to integrate equity and social justice into all the county does in
29 order to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and communities, and

30 WHEREAS, in 2014, King County enacted Ordinance 17886 ending the honoring
31 of civil immigration hold requests from the United States Immigration and Customs
32 Enforcement for individuals in the custody of the department of adult and juvenile
33 detention, and

34 WHEREAS, in 2017, King County enacted Ordinance 18499 appropriating
35 \$750,000 to address issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities, which
36 included: providing culturally specific support services; shoring up funding for the
37 Resilience Fund, which is a collaborative with the Seattle Foundation, the city of Seattle,
38 and other organizations to provide timely, flexible funding to address urgent needs of
39 immigrant and refugee populations; and funding legal defense for immigrants with

40 limited financial resources, and later that same year enacted Ordinance 18544 to
41 appropriate an additional \$250,000 to support legal defense for immigrants with limited
42 financial resources, and

43 WHEREAS, support services for immigrants and refugees have become an
44 ongoing investment supported by the veterans, seniors, and human services levy
45 approved by the voters 2017, and again in 2023, and

46 WHEREAS, in 2017, King County enacted Ordinance 18653 establishing the
47 immigrant and refugee commission so the county can better serve its immigrant and
48 refugee communities, including many who have come to King County because they have
49 been persecuted or feared they would be persecuted on account of race, ethnicity,
50 religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social or political group, and

51 WHEREAS, in 2017, King County enacted Ordinance 18665 establishing
52 requirements for how county agencies, offices, and employees will provide services to
53 immigrants; requiring all county agencies to develop plans to provide communications
54 and vital documents in the top six non-English languages used in King County as
55 identified by the office of equity and racial and social justice and the county
56 demographer; and establishing an immigrant and refugee assistance fund to provide legal
57 representation for indigent immigrants and refugees in deportation proceedings in
58 immigration court and to support citizenship services for these residents and for English
59 language classes for immigrants and refugees, and

60 WHEREAS, Chapter 440, Laws of 2019, known as the Keep Washington
61 Working Act, in part, restricts the extent to which local law enforcement agencies may
62 participate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws, and

63 WHEREAS, Chapter 37, Laws of Washington 2020, the Courts Open to All Act,
64 among other protections for immigrants and refugees interacting with the court system,
65 prohibits judges, court staff, prosecutors, prosecutor's office staff, and court security
66 personnel from inquiring into or collecting information about an individual's immigration
67 or citizenship status or place of birth, and from disclosing nonpublic personal information
68 to immigration authorities, except as required by law, and

69 WHEREAS, the Washington state Attorney General's Office has issued model
70 policies and recommendations to help public institutions comply with Washington laws
71 limiting state and local participation in immigration enforcement activity, and

72 WHEREAS, in 2022, the council passed Motion 16106 declaring support for the
73 Cities for Citizenship initiative and directing the executive to sign the county onto the
74 initiative as a participating community, and

75 WHEREAS, in 2024, King County enacted Ordinance 19770 establishing a
76 human and civil rights commission intended to strengthen the county's anti-
77 discrimination policies and protections, ensure equitable allocation of county resources,
78 and engage robustly with diverse communities in the county, and will include a
79 representative who is active and engaged with one or more immigrant or refugee
80 communities, and

81 WHEREAS, King County recognizes that immigrant and refugee women,
82 LGBTQIA+ individuals, and gender-diverse people face unique, intersecting barriers to
83 safety, economic opportunity, and digital inclusion, and commits to gender justice and
84 advancing the needs of survivors of gender-based violence, which is recognized as a push
85 factor of migration, and

86 WHEREAS, King County is committed to continue building a welcoming, safe,
87 and hate-free environment in communities, where all immigrants and refugees are
88 welcomed, accepted, and valued, and encourages business leaders, civic groups,
89 community institutions, and residents to join in a communitywide effort to adopt policies
90 and practices that promote belonging, inclusion, and equity;

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

92 A. The council remains committed to welcoming and actively supporting
93 immigrants and refugees from all nationalities, religions, ethnicities, gender identities,
94 sexual orientations, races, and backgrounds, regardless of political preference, with
95 policies, codesigned programs, and dedicated resources that foster inclusion, meaningful
96 participation, and economic opportunity for all, in partnership with immigrant-led
97 organizations, ensuring services are trauma-informed and culturally competent.

98 B. In alignment with the Keep Washington Working Act, it is the intent of the
99 council to consider legislation to ensure that no county department, employee, agent,
100 contractor, or third-party, may use county funds, facilities, property, equipment,
101 technology, systems, databases, or personnel to investigate, data-share, enforce,
102 cooperate with, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal registration or
103 surveillance programs or any other laws, rules, or policies that target King County
104 residents solely on the basis of race, religion, immigration, or citizenship status, or
105 national or ethnic origin.

106 C. The council values the executive's partnership in supporting immigrants and
107 refugees in King County and respectfully requests the executive do the following:

108 1. Post signage, or otherwise clearly designate areas in all county facilities that
109 are not open to the public, or areas open only for a limited specific purpose, to assist
110 county employees in implementing K.C.C. 2.15.020, which requires employees to
111 immediately refer warrantless attempts or requests for access to county facilities,
112 property, equipment or nonpublic databases, or nonpublic portions of otherwise public
113 databases, or people in King County's custody to the department or agency director;

114 2. Create and regularly update a centralized county webpage with links to
115 county and external resources related to immigration issues for residents, including
116 information on civil liberties and constitutional rights, to increase access to timely
117 information and diminish disinformation. Resources should be vetted for accuracy and
118 currency and be offered in multiple languages, including the top six languages identified
119 by the tier map of limited-English-proficient persons maintained by the office of equity
120 and racial and social justice and the county demographer; and

121 3. Consider increasing staffing for the office of equity and racial and social
122 justice to enhance outreach to and engagement with immigrant and refugee communities
123 and request the language access team within the office to work with necessary
124 stakeholders to ensure all public safety, victim support, and legal navigation resources are
125 available digitally and in multiple languages, with special attention to the needs of
126 women and non-binary people experiencing violence or discrimination.

127 D. The council supports the superior court, district court, and prosecuting
128 attorney's efforts to fully comply with the Courts Open to All Act and other relevant state
129 law and encourages the implementation of policies and practices that endeavor to prevent
130 or mitigate immigration consequences for immigrants and refugees at all stages of the

131 criminal legal process, and take into consideration whether noncitizen residents may face
132 harsher punishments than United States citizens solely due to their immigration status.

133 E. The council supports the King County department of elections in continuing to
134 utilize best practices to keep our voting systems accessible to voting-eligible residents
135 from immigrant backgrounds and multi-lingual voters.

136 F. The council fully backs the county's efforts to monitor federal actions that may
137 target immigrant communities and prepare legal strategies in response, including
138 partnering across jurisdictions and with community organizations. The council will
139 consider allocating additional resources to support this critical work.

140 G. The council commits to expanding investments in the county's efforts to
141 support immigrants and refugees, including, but not limited to: deportation defense,
142 rapid response efforts coordinated with local city and Washington state agencies,
143 citizenship programs, English language learning and workforce development programs,
144 language access, mental and physical health services, food security, and investments to
145 combat displacement as well as "know your rights" trainings for county staff, contracted
146 community organizations, and immigrants and refugees.

147 H. The council reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that the county is in full
148 compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act, the Courts Open to All Act, and
149 K.C.C. chapter 2.15. The council supports the efforts of elected officials and staff in
150 local jurisdictions within the county and throughout Washington state in complying with
151 the state laws, developing policies, and expanding resources and funding to further
152 protect populations whose rights may be abrogated and interests harmed by the federal
153 government, including, but not limited to, immigrants and refugees.

I. The council condemns President Trump's deployment of federalized National Guard and federal troops into the city of Los Angeles, which violates both federal statutes and the United States Constitution. The council respectfully requests the Washington state Congressional delegation take steps to exercise oversight of the deployment of federalized troops, rescind the deployment order, and withdraw military troops from our communities.

J. The council requests that the executive file a report evaluating the county's progress in implementing section C of this motion within one year of this motion's passage. The executive should consult with the immigrant and refugee commission and community-based organizations contracted by the county to provide services to immigrant and refugee communities when drafting the report. The report should be filed in the form of an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the committee of the whole, or its successor."

EFFECT prepared by M. Bailey: The striking amendment would do the following:

- **Correct drafting errors;**
- **Add two whereas statements:**
 - **One that acknowledges the Washington state Attorney General's Office has issued model policies and recommendations to help public institutions comply with state laws limiting state and local participation in immigration enforcement activity; and**
 - **One that recognizes immigrant and refugee women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and gender-diverse people face unique, intersecting**

177 barriers to safety, economic opportunity, and digital inclusion, and
178 commits to gender justice and advancing the needs of survivors of
179 gender-based violence, which is recognized as a push factor of
180 migration;

181 • Amend the following sections:

- 182 ○ Section A to include reference to codesigned programs and add that
183 the work to welcome immigrant and refugee communities will be done
184 "in partnership with immigrant-led organizations, ensuring services
185 are trauma-informed, and culturally competent";
- 186 ○ Section B so that the language used mirrors the language in the Keep
187 Washington Working Act;
- 188 ○ Section C.2 to remove reference to specific county websites and to
189 clarify that the websites should be vetted for accuracy and currency;
- 190 ○ Section C.3. so that, instead of requesting the Executive to consider
191 creating an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Assistance, it requests
192 the Executive to consider increasing staffing for the Office of Equity
193 and Racial and Social Justice to enhance outreach to and engagement
194 with immigrant and refugee communities. Also requests the
195 Language Access Team within OERSJ work with stakeholders to
196 ensure all public safety, victim support, and legal navigation resources
197 are available digitally and in multiple languages, with special
198 attention to the needs of women and non-binary people experiencing
199 violence or discrimination;

- 200 ○ **Section I (now Section J), so that the report requested from the**
- 201 **Executive is limited to the requests made of the Executive in Section C**
- 202 **of the motion; and**
- 203 • **Add a section to express the Council's support of the Department of Elections**
- 204 **continued use of best practices to keep the county's voter systems accessible**
- 205 **to voting-eligible residents from immigrant backgrounds and multi-lingual**
- 206 **voters.**



Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

July 1, 2025 Meeting

**Agenda Item No. 8
Briefing No. 2025-B0082**

Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Sales Tax Funded Program Update

**Materials for this item will be available before the
meeting.**

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON**

Resolution Requesting that the Arrest,
Investigation, and Prosecution of Individuals
Involved with Entheogen-related Activities be
Amongst the Lowest Priority in Jefferson
County and Declaring Support for Full
Decriminalization of these Activities

RESOLUTION NO. 19 23

WHEREAS, "entheogen" is herein defined as the full spectrum of psychedelic plants, fungi, and natural materials (including living, fresh, dried, or processed plant or fungal material, including teas or powders) containing indole amines, tryptamines, or phenethylamines, including, but not limited to, psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca, cacti containing mescaline, and iboga; and

WHEREAS, entheogenic plants have been considered sacred to human cultures for thousands of years and used to inspire personal and spiritual well-being, restore psychological and physical wellness, and enrich connection with nature. Such use has been continued within indigenous cultures, religious/spiritual practitioners, healers, mental health professionals, and curious individuals from around the world, many of whom have been forced underground; and

WHEREAS, chronic depression, anxiety disorders, addiction and drug overdoses, end-of-life distress, intergenerational trauma, and other issues challenge our community; and

WHEREAS, both via scientific/clinical studies and within continuing community and personal contexts, the use of entheogens has been shown to be beneficial in treating the above conditions, as well as improving mental and socio-emotional health and supporting the well-being of individuals and communities in general; and

WHEREAS, entheogens have been shown to alleviate symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) experienced by front-line workers and first responders such as healthcare providers, paramedics, EMTs, police, firefighters, and military veterans; and

WHEREAS, entheogens have been shown to alleviate treatment resistant cases of opioid and methamphetamine use disorders at significantly higher rates than other treatments for substance use disorders, and to reduce prison recidivism; and

WHEREAS, entheogens are regarded as non-addictive and are not associated with violent behavior, and their physical and psychological risks can be mitigated through screening processes, guidance on appropriate dosages, education on safe and responsible use, and access to support; and

WHEREAS, the risks of engaging with entheogenic plants and fungi stem more from the effects of them being criminalized than from any health risk of using entheogens themselves. Criminalization limits access to accurate education, harm reduction information, and appropriate training for first responders, and decreases the chance that those having a challenging experience or an injury while using an entheogen will call for emergency support due to fear of criminal repercussions; and

WHEREAS, decriminalization promotes equitable access by protecting against commercialization and regulatory frameworks that limit access, ensuring that the benefits of entheogens remain accessible to all adult members of the community who can thus pursue their own chosen healing paths; and

WHEREAS, protecting the safety, welfare, health, and peace of the people of this state means prioritizing this state's limited law enforcement resources in the most effective, consistent, and rational way; and

WHEREAS, the so-called War on Drugs led to the unnecessary penalization, arrest, and incarceration of vulnerable people, particularly people of color and people of limited financial means; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations considers Entheogenic Plant and Fungi material used for ritual purposes as excluded from Schedule 1 substances; and

WHEREAS, a variety of jurisdictions in the United States, including Oakland, CA; Denver, CO; Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County, MI; Seattle, WA; Cambridge, MA; Washington, D.C.; and the state of CO decriminalized entheogens, and legislators introduced similar bills in 2023 in CA, NY, MI, and several other states; and various entheogens are legal or have been decriminalized in several countries including Portugal, Brazil, Jamaica, and the Netherlands; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health passed a resolution in July of 2021 supporting the removal of entheogens and the psychoactive chemicals they contain from the jurisdiction of the Controlled Substances Act and recommending that federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursue a decriminalization strategy for adult use of entheogens; and

WHEREAS, Port Townsend City Council passed a resolution on December 20th, 2021 unanimously adopting a resolution declaring the use, growth, possession, and distribution of entheogenic plants to be “among the lowest law enforcement priority for the City of Port Townsend” and declaring that no city funds or resources should be expended towards law enforcement activity concerning adult use of entheogens; and

WHEREAS, while recognizing that changing federal or state laws or penalties is beyond the scope of its authority, the Board of Commissioners wishes to acknowledge the healing potentials of entheogens for its local community and to declare its desire not to expend County resources in any investigation, detention, arrest, or prosecution arising out of alleged violations of state and federal law regarding entheogens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, that the Board:

Section 1. Supports decriminalization of these activities at the state and federal level and commits to add to its agenda for the 2024 state legislative session support for full decriminalization of entheogens, including advocating for no regulated legalization of any entheogens without full decriminalization occurring first or within the same legislative session.

Section 2. Requests that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of adults engaging in entheogen-related activities, including but not limited to the cultivation, gathering, or sharing of entheogens for use in religious, spiritual, healing, or personal growth practices when ingested out of view of the public, should be among Jefferson County's lowest law enforcement priorities.

Section 3. Requests that no county resources are used to assist in the enforcement of laws imposing criminal penalties for the safe planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, possessing, or using entheogens by adults when no dangerous activity is present;

Section 4. Affirms that this resolution does not authorize or enable any of the following: commercial sales of entheogens, possessing or distributing these materials in schools, driving under the influence of these materials; or public disturbance. Further, this does not preclude enforcing other laws when entheogens are present.

Section 5. Encourages relevant County departments to develop nuanced and adaptive responses to the use of controlled substances to include harm reduction strategies, recognition of substance use disorder as a public health issue, and to use the criminal justice system as a pathway to treatment and recovery for individuals and to uphold public safety for our communities.

Section 6. Recommends that federal and state enforcement agencies move towards a decriminalization strategy for adult use of entheogens.

Section 7. Emphasizes that this Resolution shall not be interpreted to prohibit or discourage the filing of charges that are not covered herein.

(SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE)

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of May, 2023.

SEAL:



ATTEST:

Carolyn Gallaway 5/1/23
Carolyn Gallaway, Date
Clerk of the Board

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

[Signature]
Greg Brotherton, Chair

[Signature]
Kate Dean, Member

[Signature]
Heidi Eisenhour, Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

P.C. / [Signature] 5/3/2023
Philip C. Hunsucker, Date
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator
FROM: Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner
DATE: May 1, 2023
SUBJECT: Resolution in support of decriminalizing entheogens

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: We have been asked to consider adopting a resolution requesting that the arrest, investigation, and prosecution of individuals involved with entheogen-related activities be amongst the lowest priority in Jefferson County and declaring support for decriminalization of these activities. We realize that these changes need to be made at the state level to be truly effective, that our local sheriff and prosecuting attorney are bound to uphold state law and that our communities' values indicate a desire for change of laws regulating entheogens.

ANALYSIS: On April 24 we heard from constituents, and were joined by our Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff to discuss a draft resolution on the decriminalization of entheogens. Before us today is an updated resolution which incorporates all of the changes discussed at that meeting.

Previously, all members of the BoCC have received multiple requests to support a resolution regarding entheogens as many Jefferson County residents, especially local elders, are already working intentionally with entheogens - often as end-of-life patients seeking support for end-of-life anxiety, people who are seeking healing from addiction or PTSD, people seeking healing from other medical conditions, or people simply seeking to become healthier in general. Access is limited to those who have privileged access and connections. We agree that decriminalization creates a context where those who want to use these plants for healing can be supported in doing so. It also reduces the harm that stems directly from criminalization, regardless of one's intention for using entheogens.

With this resolution we will join with our colleagues at the City of Port Townsend and on the Board of Health to support decriminalization of entheogens. And thus, this resolution is in support of changing laws at the state and federal levels to more accurately represent our community's values.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss and approve the resolution.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

4/28/23
Date