

MOTION NO. 6461

A MOTION setting forth the historical basis for "renaming" King County after the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., instead of William Rufus DeVane King for whom King County is currently named.

WHEREAS, the County of King in the State of Washington was named after William Rufus DeVane King by the Oregon Territorial legislature in 1852, and

WHEREAS, William Rufus DeVane King was a slaveowner and a 'gentle slave monger' according to John Quincy Adams, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of King County believe that the ownership of another human being is an injustice against humanity, and

WHEREAS, William Rufus DeVane King earned income and maintained his lifestyle by oppressing and exploiting other human beings, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of King County cherish and uphold the constitutional tenet of the 'unmitigated pursuit' of life, liberty, and happiness for which many citizens of this country have given their lives as a supreme sacrifice to defend these foundations of freedom, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of King County through their various faiths uphold the principle that all mankind was created equal, and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed that liberty, justice and freedom were the 'inalienable rights' of all men, women and children, and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a spiritual man who believed all people were created equal in the sight of God, and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in the dignity and self-worth of every individual, and subsequently, gave his life defending his beliefs, and

1           WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a recipient  
 2 of the Nobel Prize became a national hero whose birthday has  
 3 been declared a national holiday by his nation's government  
 4 to be a day of peace, love and understanding, and

5           WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through his  
 6 persistent and unflinching efforts prompted passage of the  
 7 Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
 8 both of which have benefited all citizens of this nation, and

9           WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired  
 10 people and nations world-wide to strive in a non-violent  
 11 manner for the human rights, civil liberties, and economic  
 12 guarantees rightfully due people of all races;

13           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:  
 14 The King County Council, hereby, sets forth the historical  
 15 basis for the "renaming" of King County in honor of Reverend  
 16 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man whose contributions are  
 17 well-documented and celebrated by millions throughout this  
 18 nation and the world, and embody the attributes for which the  
 19 citizens of King County can be proud, and claim as their own.

20           BE IT FURTHER MOVED,

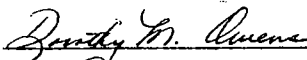
21           King County shall be named after the Reverend Dr. Martin  
 22 Luther King, Jr.

23           PASSED THIS 24th day of February, 1986.

24  
 25 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
 26 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

27   
 28 Chair

29 ATTEST:

30   
 31 Clerk of the Council