



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 7, 2016

Motion 14718

Proposed No. 2016-0421.1

Sponsors Kohl-Welles

1 A MOTION calling for meaningful actions to address lead
2 poisoning and support for efforts to eliminate lead
3 poisoning in King County.

4 WHEREAS, international and national health agencies and programs recognize
5 that lead is an extremely toxic metal that can have severe health impacts on adults and
6 children, and

7 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention assert there is no
8 safe level of exposure to lead, and

9 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also assert that
10 exposure to lead has negative impacts on almost all systems of the human body and can
11 cause permanent disability and other health problems in children such as learning
12 disabilities, decreased IQs, behavioral problems, decreased physical growth and other
13 health issues, and

14 WHEREAS, lead poisoning is a preventable public health problem, and

15 WHEREAS, the Washington state Department of Health surveillance data show
16 that only a fraction of children exposed to lead in Washington state and King County
17 receive blood-lead-level testing, and

18 WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County estimates that more than
19 eight thousand children in King County may have elevated blood lead levels, based on
20 2014 data, and

21 WHEREAS, it is well-documented nationwide that older housing stock that
22 contains lead-based paint is a continuing source of lead poisoning in children, and

23 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community
24 Survey, approximately twenty percent of all King County housing was built before 1950
25 and an additional forty-one percent was built between 1950 and 1979, when use of lead-
26 based paint and other materials was common, and

27 WHEREAS, the Washington state Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and
28 Surveillance program has identified businesses in King County that use large amounts of
29 lead or generate lead contamination that poisons adult workers, and found that adults
30 exposed at work may take lead home with them, thereby exposing their children and
31 other family members, and

32 WHEREAS, a recent review of Washington state Adult Blood Lead
33 Epidemiology and Surveillance data by Public Health - Seattle & King County revealed a
34 disproportionate burden of lead poisoning is borne by communities of color in King
35 County, and

36 WHEREAS, several occupational- and environmental-health organizations,
37 including the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists, assert that current
38 occupational standards for lead in state and federal law are based on scientific knowledge
39 from the 1970s and do not reflect the current understanding of lead's health effects, and

40 WHEREAS, the current occupational standards in state and federal law for lead
41 are not protective of workers and residents in King County;

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

43 A. The council calls on federal and state lawmakers to take meaningful action to
44 address lead poisoning.

45 B. The council encourages and will explore requiring all King County health care
46 providers to adopt Washington state Department of Health guidance for lead screening of
47 all children at ages twelve and twenty-four months, including screening all Medicaid-
48 eligible children, and screening based on the recommended child lead exposure risk
49 assessment.

50 C. The council supports updating the occupational lead standards for lead in
51 Washington state to provide greater protection for workers and their families.
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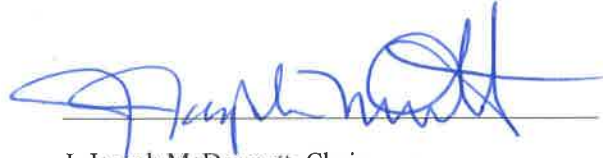
Motion 14718 was introduced on 8/22/2016 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/6/2016, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci

No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None