



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 20, 2018

Motion 15092

Proposed No. 2018-0166.1

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

1 A MOTION endorsing the student-led March 24, 2018,
2 March for Our Lives, urging the United States Congress to
3 pass legislation to reduce gun violence and to ban assault-
4 style weapons, and calling upon the Washington state
5 Legislature to repeal the state preemption in RCW
6 9.41.290, thereby allowing King County and other local
7 governments to adopt common sense gun laws, rules and
8 regulations that will protect its citizenry in the absence of
9 state action.

10 WHEREAS, only eleven weeks into 2018, there have already been at least 15
11 shootings on elementary, middle, and high school and college campuses in the United
12 States which averages to about 1.4 per week, and those shootings include a January 4
13 shooting at New Start High School in Seattle, a January 9 shooting at Coronado
14 Elementary School in Arizona, a January 12 shooting at Jackson State University in
15 Mississippi, a January 16 shooting at Montpelier High School in Vermont, a January 19
16 shooting at Del Norte High School in New Mexico, a January 20 shooting at Wake Forest
17 University in North Carolina, a January 22 shooting at Italy High School in Texas, a
18 January 23 shooting at Marshall County High School in Kentucky, a January 26 shooting
19 at Dearborn High School in Michigan, a January 30 shooting at Belleville West High

20 School in Illinois, a January 31 shooting at Lincoln High School in Philadelphia, a
21 February 1 shooting at Salvador B. Castro Middle School in Los Angeles, a February 5
22 shooting at Oxon Hill High School in Maryland, a February 9 shooting at Pearl-Cohn
23 High School in Tennessee and a February 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas
24 High School in Parkland, Florida, and

25 WHEREAS, in the past five years, eight school shootings have occurred in
26 Washington state, four of which resulted in injury or death, and

27 WHEREAS, gun violence, and threats of gun violence, in schools undermine the
28 sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments, and

29 WHEREAS, in the last several years, mass shooting incidents involving assault
30 style weapons and high-capacity magazines have occurred in locations across the United
31 States including Tucson, Arizona; Aurora, Colorado; Newtown, Connecticut; Clackamas,
32 Oregon; Virginia Tech University; Las Vegas, Nevada; Orlando, Florida; Mukilteo,
33 Washington; and Parkland, Florida, and

34 WHEREAS, hundreds of innocent children and adults have been killed or injured
35 in these incidents, and

36 WHEREAS, the people of King County mourn the loss of these lives, including
37 the 17 innocent people murdered on February 14, 2018, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas
38 High School in Parkland Florida, the deadliest school shooting since 2012, and

39 WHEREAS, the most recent available Washington state Department of Health
40 data show that firearms are the third leading cause of injury-related death in Washington
41 state, killing approximately 625 Washington residents each year between 2009 to 2013,
42 and firearms were involved in one in six of all deaths among youth ages 15 to 24, and

43 WHEREAS, according to the Washington state Department of Health, 146 King
44 County residents died from a gun injury in 2015, including six children ages 17 and
45 younger, and

46 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2015
47 firearm fatalities cost almost \$200 million in medical costs and lost productivity in King
48 County, and

49 WHEREAS, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on communities of color
50 and children of color are victims of homicide by firearms at a higher rate than white
51 children in King County, and

52 WHEREAS, the state of Washington, through RCW 9.41.290, enacted in May
53 1985, has sought to explicitly remove authority from local governments to regulate
54 dangerous weapons and ammunition; threatening public safety by depriving communities
55 the ability to implement local common sense solutions to the epidemic of gun violence,
56 and

57 WHEREAS, local governments in Washington state have taken steps that work to
58 increase gun safety, including encouraging safe firearm storage through the Lok-it-Up
59 program and enforcement of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in King County, and

60 WHEREAS, regulatory gaps created by inaction at the state level remain,
61 resulting in innovative efforts by local government being stymied and impeded by the
62 state's preemption laws, and

63 WHEREAS, sensible gun safety legislation will strengthen protections for King
64 County residents by reducing injury and death from intentional and unintentional
65 shootings, and

66 WHEREAS, young people and local communities are engaging in civic action
67 across King County and the world to call for the adoption of sensible gun laws, including
68 the National School Walkout on March 14, 2018, marking the one month anniversary of
69 the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and April, 20, 2018, the nineteenth anniversary
70 of the shooting at Columbine High School, and

71 WHEREAS, students have seized the conscience of the nation with their demand
72 for strong action to reduce preventable gun violence and on March 24, 2018, National
73 March for Our Lives rallies and marches are being organized by local student leaders
74 seeking to deliver an unmistakable message that now is the time to pass commonsense
75 gun safety laws, and

76 WHEREAS, these local students are organizing March for Our Lives marches
77 around King County, including in Auburn, North Bend, Seattle and Vashon, in
78 conjunction with the national march in Washington, D.C., to demand that their lives and
79 safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools
80 today, and

81 WHEREAS, the Seattle School District and Bellevue School District have passed
82 resolutions that support the March for Our Lives movement and direct action on March
83 24, 2018;

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

85 A. The council wholly endorses the student led March for Our Lives on March
86 24, 2018, and encourages all residents to participate.

87 B. The council urges the United States Congress to take immediate action to
88 adopt measures aimed at reducing gun violence. The adoption of such measures must

89 include effective background checks, prevent access to lethal assault-style weapons, and
90 eliminate existing restrictions on, and fully fund, gun violence research. These policies
91 must not have a disproportionate impact or negative effect on communities of color.

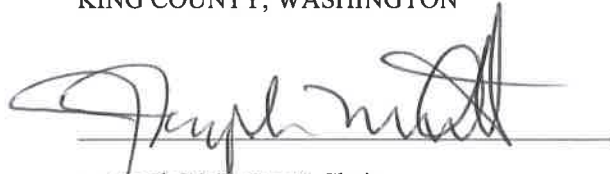
92 C. It is the intent of the council to protect the health and safety of county
93 residents by developing innovative and meaningful policy that confronts gun violence.
94 The council calls upon the Washington state Legislature to repeal the state preemption in

95 RCW 9.41.290 and thereby allow local governments to enact common sense gun laws,
96 rules and regulations that will protect its citizenry in the absence of state action.
97

Motion 15092 was introduced on 3/19/2018 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 3/19/2018, by the following vote:

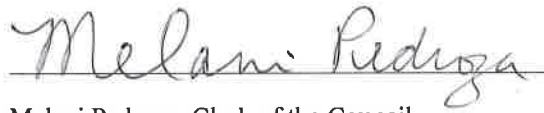
Yes: 6 - Mr. Gossett, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr.
Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci
No: 3 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert and Mr. Dunn
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

