



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15650

Proposed No. 2020-0183.3

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION requesting that the King County office of
2 emergency management and public health - Seattle & King
3 County work collaboratively to update the King County
4 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the
5 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Regional
6 Coordination Framework, continuity of operations plans,
7 the King County Continuity of Government Plan and all
8 other relevant emergency management plans and
9 documents to address the risks from and response to
10 pandemics, incorporating lessons learned from the COVID-
11 19 outbreak, and to develop a pandemic response plan for
12 King County.

13 WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, public health - Seattle & King County
14 confirmed the first cases of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"), including one death, in
15 the county, and

16 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness
17 or death and can easily spread from person to person; and is classified by the World
18 Health Organization as a pandemic that spreads easily from person to person and may
19 result in serious illness or death, and

Motion 15650

20 WHEREAS, as of April 23, 2020, King County had reported 5,569 confirmed
21 cases of COVID-19, and at least 384 individuals in King County had died as a result of
22 the virus, and

23 WHEREAS, while COVID-19 is the worst pandemic to affect King County in
24 several generations, the possibility of pandemics of similar or greater impact in the future
25 is omnipresent, and changing climatic conditions are expected to multiply the threat of
26 zoonotic and other pandemics, and

27 WHEREAS, the mission of the office of emergency management is "to provide
28 for the effective direction, control and coordination of county government emergency
29 services functional units, and to provide liaison with other governments and the private,
30 nongovernmental sector, in compliance with a state-approved comprehensive emergency
31 management plan and to serve as the coordinating entity for cities, county governmental
32 departments and other appropriate agencies, during incidents and events of regional
33 significance," and the office is tasked with developing a comprehensive plan and program
34 for emergency management, and

35 WHEREAS, public health - Seattle & King County is responsible for planning
36 and developing local and regional capacity for responding to public health emergencies
37 and providing for the direction and mobilization of health resources, information and
38 personnel during emergencies and disasters in the county, and

39 WHEREAS, in 2005, Ordinance 15348 required the executive to develop a
40 pandemic influenza response plan, and

41 WHEREAS, Ordinance 15596 adopted the County's Pandemic Influenza
42 Response Plan in 2006, and Ordinance 15986 adopted an updated version of the plan the

Motion 15650

43 following year, and

44 WHEREAS, public health - Seattle & King County has, in the past, developed
45 other planning documents relating to influenza pandemics, such as the Influenza
46 Pandemic Planning Guide for Homeless and Housing Service Providers, and

47 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic presents an emergency with similar
48 characteristics to a pandemic influenza, with public health responses generally following
49 what is contained in the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan, but future pandemics of
50 different origins may require different responses, and

51 WHEREAS, the King County office of emergency management develops and
52 maintains a number of planning documents, such as the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan,
53 the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the Regional Coordination
54 Framework, King County continuity of operations plans and the King County Continuity
55 of Government Plan, and

56 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is the first real-world test of these plans in
57 a large-scale, global pandemic outbreak affecting King County, and the lessons learned in
58 the outbreak must be used to prepare for future pandemics, whether they be viral,
59 bacterial or parasitic in origin, and

60 WHEREAS, the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak have
61 application outside pandemic planning and should be used to prepare for other types of
62 emergencies under an all-hazards approach to emergency management;

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

64 A. The office of emergency management should work with public health - Seattle
65 & King County to update the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the

Motion 15650

66 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Regional Coordination Framework, King County
67 continuity of operations plans, the King County Continuity of Government Plan and any
68 other relevant emergency management or disaster plans or documents to address the
69 threat of pandemics to King County, using the lessons learned from the COVID-19
70 pandemic and building upon the pandemic response plan described in section B of this
71 motion.

72 B. Public health - Seattle & King County, in coordination with the King County
73 office of emergency management, should create a new pandemic response plan and
74 update other relevant planning documents, expanding on the existing Pandemic Influenza
75 Response Plan and other emergency and disaster planning efforts, using lessons learned
76 from the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan should include the following topics, at a
77 minimum:

78 1. A response plan or plans addressing each pandemic phase identified by the
79 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including a description of the responsibilities
80 of relevant governmental and nongovernmental agencies in each pandemic phase, both
81 with and without presence of local cases;

82 2. Identification of critical infrastructure or resources that are currently lacking
83 that would be required in order to respond to pandemics, the barriers to acquiring or
84 developing the infrastructure or resources and recommendations for how to fill these
85 gaps; and

86 3. Any other information or strategies deemed appropriate by public health -
87 Seattle & King County.

88 C. The King County office of emergency management is requested to transmit all

Motion 15650

89 updated plans and documents described in section A of this motion, and a proposed
90 motion acknowledging receipt of the updated plans and documents, by September 1,
91 2022. The plans and documents should be filed in the form of a paper original and an
92 electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who will retain the original and provide an
93 electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff to the
94 committee of the whole or its successor.

95 D. Public health - Seattle & King County is requested to transmit the pandemic
96 response plan and other updated documents and a proposed motion acknowledging
97 receipt of the pandemic response plan and other updated documents by September 1,
98 2022. The plan and documents should be filed in the form of a paper original and an
99 electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who will retain the original and provide an
100 electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff to the
101 committee of the whole or its successor.

102 E. The King County office of emergency management and public health - Seattle

Motion 15650

103 & King County are requested to provide a briefing to the council on the status of the
104 pandemic response plan and other plan updates no later than September 1, 2021.
105

Motion 15650 was introduced on 5/12/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/7/2020, by the following vote:

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:
Claudia Balducci
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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Melani Pedroza
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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None