

# RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, Ukraine proclaimed its independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on August 24, 1991, and has been a fully independent country since December 1991; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine is home to nearly 44 million citizens, is the second largest country geographically on the European continent, and is a nation rich in natural resources with a market economy, known to be a high-tech industrial base, as well as having strong agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian military to invade and then annex the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in violation of international law and agreements; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched an unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, shattering decades-long peace in Europe; and

WHEREAS, King County is home to 20,000 people who identify as Ukrainian, 12,000 of whom have immigrated directly from Ukraine, ranking eighth among foreign-born populations in King County, and the Pacific Northwest is home to an estimated 62,000 people of Ukrainian heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Ukrainian Community Center of Washington has been helping Eastern European refugees and immigrants since 1998 and is continuing to provide support and comfort for the local Ukrainian community during these distressing times, and

WHEREAS, we recognize these acts of war by an authoritarian regime put the personal safety and the democratic way of life of Ukrainians under attack, causing undue stress and worry for local Ukrainians concerned about their country and their families abroad; and

WHEREAS, we stand inspired by the heroic acts of the Ukrainian people as they stand united to protect their country, their citizens, and their democratic way of life from the unprovoked invasion; and

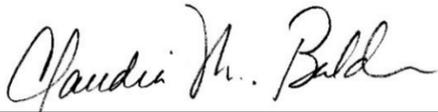
WHEREAS, we must stand together with our local Ukrainian community to condemn these acts of war and send a strong message that we will not allow aggressions against democracy anywhere;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Metropolitan King County Council recognizes the

## **KING COUNTY UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY**

and expresses support for all Ukrainians, including the 20,000 King County residents, the estimated 62,000 residents of the greater Puget Sound region, the citizens of Ukraine, and the broader worldwide Ukrainian community.

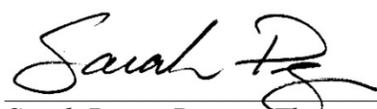
DATED this first day of March, 2022.



Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair



Rod Dembowski, District One



Sarah Perry, District Three



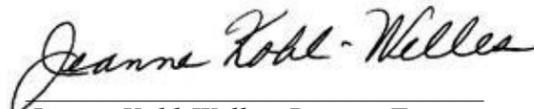
Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Vice Chair



Joe McDermott, District Eight



Girmay Zahilay, District Two, Council Vice Chair



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine