



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 20102

Proposed No. 2026-0090.1

Sponsors Lewis

1 AN ORDINANCE renaming parcel 7812801985 of
2 Skyway Park as Black Panther Park to honor the legacy of
3 the local Black Panther Party chapter.

4 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 5 1. The King County department of parks and recreation purchased parcel
6 7812801985 on October 31, 1988. The property was acquired to increase
7 access to green space in the Skyway area.
- 8 2. A community garden on this parcel was proposed by the community to
9 the King County department of natural resources and parks, parks and
10 recreation division, in 2015. The effort to develop this parcel into a
11 community garden and gathering space has been supported and led by
12 various community organizations since 2015, including Skyway Solutions,
13 West Hill Community Association, Skyway Coalition, the Silent Task
14 Force, and Nurturing Roots.
- 15 3. In 2018, Skyway Solutions worked with the King Conservation District
16 and Stone Soup Gardens to develop a design for the parcel, with funding
17 from the King County department of natural resources and parks
18 community partnerships and grants program.

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- 19 4. Skyway Solutions intended to begin construction in 2019, but the
20 organization officially dissolved in 2020 and construction was postponed
21 until a new community partner was identified.
- 22 5. In 2022, Nurturing Roots, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that
23 values community, self-sufficiency, food empowerment, social justice,
24 and education, became involved in the project on behalf of the Skyway
25 Community through the King County department of natural resources and
26 parks community partnerships and grants program.
- 27 6. Through community-led engagement supported by Skyway
28 Coalition, the Silent Task Force, and The Urban Food Systems Pact, the
29 park's design, and its proposed name, Black Panther Park, were selected.
- 30 7. The design was finalized by Nurturing Roots and Stone Soup Gardens
31 in 2024. The park design includes various artistic elements, such as a
32 painted raised fist on the central patio, that are directly connected to the
33 proposed name.
- 34 8. Funding for the construction of Black Panther Park was awarded to
35 Nurturing Roots in 2025 from King County department of natural
36 resources and parks community partnership and grants program, as well as
37 King County department of local services participatory budgeting.
- 38 9. The community-led park design on parcel 7812801985 pulls inspiration
39 from the legacy of the Black Panther Party, in particular its work to
40 address food injustice and community needs grounded in the civil rights
41 movement.

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42 10. King County, whose name is in honor of the celebrated civil rights
 43 leader the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., has benefitted greatly
 44 from the various organizations and individuals that contributed to the civil
 45 rights movement in the United States, including the Black Panther Party.

46 11. The name Black Panther Park was chosen by the community with the
 47 desire to honor the Seattle Black Panther Chapter and the positive impact
 48 it had on the Skyway community and the entire King County area.

49 12. The Seattle Black Panther Chapter was founded in 1968 by civil rights
 50 activists.

51 13. The Seattle Black Panther Chapter established various community
 52 focused programs and resources, some of the most impactful included the
 53 free breakfast program for all children, and a free medical clinic in
 54 Seattle's central district that is still in operation today and is now known as
 55 the Carolyn Downs Medical Center.

56 14. The Seattle Black Panther Chapter was active until 1978, longer than
 57 most chapters around the nation, and had a major impact on King County.

58 15. The Seattle Black Panther Chapter's spirit and activism live on in
 59 King County, and the chapter will be remembered for its efforts and
 60 contributions towards racial and economic justice.

61 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

62 SECTION 1. We do hereby honor and memorialize the Seattle Black Panther

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- 63 Chapter and its positive impact on the Skyway community by renaming parcel
- 64 7812801985 of Skyway Park as Black Panther Park.

Ordinance 20102 was introduced on 5/12/2026 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/7/2026, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Fain, Lewis, Mosqueda,
Perry and von Reichbauer
Excused: 1 - Barón

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:

Sarah Perry

062AC77E76FB49B...

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Hay

8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of 7/20/2026, ____.

Signed by:

Girmay Zahilay

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Girmay Zahilay, County Executive

Attachments: None

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Sarah Perry

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Chair, King County Council

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Sarah Perry
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Clerk of the Council

King County Council

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