



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**May 31, 2017**

**Motion 14873**

**Proposed No. 2017-0171.3**

**Sponsors** von Reichbauer, Balducci, Kohl-  
Welles and Upthegrove

1           A MOTION declaring the criticality of regional planning,  
 2           coordination and funding efforts to address the challenges  
 3           of housing affordability in King County and establishing  
 4           the regional affordable housing task force and associated  
 5           standing advisory panel to develop a recommended  
 6           countywide affordable housing strategy.

7           WHEREAS, at the end of February 2017, the median single-family home price in  
 8           King County was five hundred sixty thousand dollars, more than two hundred fifty  
 9           thousand dollars above the national median, and

10           WHEREAS, the King County median home price increased more than fourteen  
 11           percent between February 2016 and 2017, and

12           WHEREAS, at the end of September 2016, the median monthly rental price in  
 13           King County was two thousand two hundred fifty dollars, more than seven hundred  
 14           dollars above the national median, and

15           WHEREAS, those housing price levels have resulted in nearly three hundred  
 16           thousand households in King County spending more than thirty percent of their incomes  
 17           on housing, and

18           WHEREAS, far too many people have been unable to afford any type of housing,  
 19           with nearly ten thousand people experiencing homelessness on any given day during

20 2016, and

21 WHEREAS, in November 2015, the King County executive declared  
22 homelessness to be in a state of emergency, and

23 WHEREAS, during the third quarter of 2016, one thousand one hundred seventy-  
24 two homeless families applied to King County for permanent housing, and

25 WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing and the crisis of homelessness are  
26 being felt in every community in the county, and

27 WHEREAS, King County, local jurisdictions, private and nonprofit partners and  
28 philanthropic organizations have come together to address the challenges of  
29 homelessness and housing affordability through: the efforts of All Home to make  
30 homelessness rare, brief and one-time; the work of the King County consortium to assess  
31 community development and housing needs countywide and to allocate state and federal  
32 funding; and the work of the growth management planning council to develop strategies  
33 to meet housing needs through local planning and zoning initiatives, and

34 WHEREAS, the King County executive proposed and the King County council  
35 voted in 2016 to issue eighty seven million dollars in bond financing backed by lodging  
36 taxes to support the development of affordable housing near transit hubs, and

37 WHEREAS, the executive proposed and council voted in 2016 to approve the  
38 regional equitable development initiative fund to develop workforce housing near transit  
39 hubs and appropriated three million five hundred thousand dollars in local and grant  
40 funds toward that effort, and

41 WHEREAS, the voters of King County approved the best starts for kids levy,  
42 which includes nineteen million dollars to support a youth and family homelessness

43 prevention initiative, and

44 WHEREAS, the executive proposed and the council, working with regional  
45 partners, renewed the mental illness and drug dependency levy, which includes  
46 supportive services for people in need, and

47 WHEREAS, the council is working with regional partners to examine the  
48 possibility of submitting a proposal to the voters to renew the veterans and human  
49 services levy, which includes services and support for veterans and others in need in our  
50 community, and

51 WHEREAS, King County awards approximately twenty million dollars annually  
52 for affordable housing, and

53 WHEREAS, the council, in the 2017-2018 Biennial Budget Ordinance, allocated  
54 an additional seven million five hundred thousand dollars to provide emergency shelter  
55 and services to those experiencing homelessness, joining communities around the region  
56 that are increasing local support to help those in need, and

57 WHEREAS, even with those new resources, and despite the ongoing regional  
58 efforts, the magnitude of the housing and homelessness challenge facing this region  
59 requires a more intensive and coordinated regional approach, and

60 WHEREAS, the council passed Motion 14754 on November 15, 2016, requesting  
61 that the executive and council coordinate in convening a regional planning effort during  
62 2017 that includes cities, nonprofit agencies and private partners to develop a regional  
63 plan for affordable housing, and

64 WHEREAS, King County is committed to inclusive and broad stakeholder  
65 participation during the planning effort and shall include representatives from

66 jurisdictions throughout the county and from across the affordable housing spectrum to  
67 participate in the process;

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

69 A. There is hereby established a King County regional affordable housing task  
70 force, a collaborative group to develop a recommended countywide affordable housing  
71 strategy.

72 B.1. The executive shall transmit by May 30, 2017, for council confirmation by  
73 motion, task force membership with the following representation:

74 a. the chair of the King County council committee of the whole, as of the  
75 passage date of this motion;

76 b. the chair of the King County council health, housing and human services  
77 committee, as of the passage date of this motion;

78 c. the chair of the King County council transportation, economy and the  
79 environment committee, as of the passage date of this motion;

80 d. the chair of the King County council government accountability and  
81 oversight committee, as of the passage date of this motion;

82 e. the chair of the King County council law and justice committee, as of the  
83 passage date of this motion;

84 f. the King County executive;

85 g. one representative from North King County, recommended by the Sound  
86 Cities Association;

87 h. one representative from East King County, recommended by the Sound  
88 Cities Association;

89 i. one representative from South King County, recommended by the Sound  
90 Cities Association;

91 j. one representative from a city in the rural area, recommended by the Sound  
92 Cities Association;

93 k. the mayor of Seattle; and

94 l. one city of Seattle councilmember.

95 2. The director of the King County department of community and human  
96 services shall attend the meetings as an ex officio member of the task force.

97 C. One member representing King County and one member representing the  
98 cities shall serve as cochairs and shall convene the first meeting of the task force in July  
99 2017. Thereafter, the co-chairs shall alternate serving as the chair for task force  
100 meetings. The cochair who is serving as the chair of a task force meeting shall have the  
101 responsibility of setting the agenda for that meeting.

102 D. The executive will recommend and the task force will appoint a nonvoting  
103 advisory panel. The nonvoting advisory panel shall be selected from throughout King  
104 County, including members representing diverse and disadvantaged communities, and  
105 shall have the following representation:

106 1. Three representatives from housing authorities located within King County;

107 2. One representative from a nonprofit housing developer;

108 3. One representative from a for-profit housing developer;

109 4. One representative from an organization representing tenants or that  
110 advocates for tenants;

111 5. One representative from an organization representing homeowners or that

112 advocates for homeowners;

113           6. One representative from an organization representing landlords;

114           7. One representative representing unincorporated housing issues;

115           8. One representative from an affordable housing advocacy group; and

116           9. Two representatives from organizations that represent communities of color

117 or that advocate for communities of color.

118           E. For each task force meeting, advisory panel members with particular expertise  
119 on specific topics to be discussed shall be identified by the task force and invited to  
120 provide input. In addition to the nonvoting advisory panel, the task force may also seek  
121 additional community expertise or input to inform its work.

122           F. A staff working group shall be established to assist the task force, including  
123 lead staff from the executive and council.

124           G. The executive may consider retaining a third-party facilitator who is not an  
125 employee of King County to facilitate the work of the task force with the support of the  
126 King County staff working group.

127           H. The objectives of the task force are to:

128           1. Assess the current state of regional housing affordability in King County,  
129 including ongoing efforts by jurisdictions;

130           2. Develop a recommended statement of intent to address the regional  
131 affordable housing crisis in King County;

132           3. Identify collective tools and actions that can be taken at the regional level to  
133 create more affordable options where needed and preserve affordable housing where it  
134 exists today, which could include a recommended plan for new partnerships, local

135 strategies, regulatory reform, and funding approaches that could include, but is not  
136 limited to, evaluating a countywide sales tax levy under RCW 82.14.530;

137 4. Develop a recommended state legislative strategy to address issues relating to  
138 affordable housing and homelessness; and

139 5. Develop a dashboard for displaying region-wide progress in meeting the  
140 Countywide Planning Policies.

141 I.1. The task force will comply with the requirements of the Open Public  
142 Meetings act.

143 a. In analyzing the Open Public Meetings act, the office of the Attorney  
144 General has opined that when a quorum of the governing body meets and takes action as  
145 defined in the act, that meeting must be noticed as a meeting of the governing body. For  
146 this reason, all meetings of task force shall also be noticed as meetings of the King  
147 County council and any of its committees, although the agenda for which such a notice is  
148 given will be limited to task force business.

149 b. In all task force meetings, which are council or committee meetings in  
150 accordance with subsection I.1.a. of this motion, only the rules and procedures adopted  
151 by the task force shall apply to its meetings and not any rules and procedures applicable  
152 to the full council or any of its committees.

153 c. Attendance, if recorded, shall only be for the purposes of the task force.

154 2. At its convening meeting, the task force shall initiate operating rules and  
155 procedures, which should include those necessary to comply with the Open Public  
156 Meeting act.

157 J. The task force will develop a proposed work plan for delivery to the executive

158 and council by October 31, 2017.

159 K. The task force shall deliver a recommended regional affordable housing  
160 strategy to the executive and council, including recommendations for action, no later than  
161 December 2018. The task force may also provide interim updates and recommendations  
162 to the executive and council as the cochairs deem appropriate or as may be requested by  
163 the council.

164 L. Any reports made under this motion should be filed in the form of a paper  
165 original and an electronic copy with the executive and clerk of the council, who shall  
166 retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers.



167 M. The task force shall expire sixty days after all reporting provisions in this  
168 motion have been completed.  
169

Motion 14873 was introduced on 4/10/2017 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/30/2017, 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:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None