



KING COUNTY

ATTACHMENT 1

Signature Report

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

September 17, 2018

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2018-0381.1

Sponsors Dembowski and Gossett

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the establishment of an
2 annual gathering celebrating the life and legacy of
3 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; and adding a new
4 chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6 1. On February 24, 1986, the council adopted Motion 6461 recognizing
7 the great contributions and many achievements in public service of Nobel
8 Peace Prize laureate the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including
9 his persistent and unfailing efforts leading to the passage of the Civil
10 Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Motion 6461
11 changed the namesake of King County from William Rufus DeVane King
12 to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 13 2. The state Legislature passed Chapter 90, Laws of Washington 2005
14 (Engrossed Senate Bill 5332, amending RCW 36.04.170) to rename King
15 County in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Governor
16 Christine Gregoire signed this legislation into law in a ceremony held in
17 the King County Courthouse in Seattle on April 19, 2005. The law took
18 effect July 24, 2005.
- 19 3. Since the adoption of Motion 6461 in 1986, the county has celebrated

20 the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on an annual
21 basis and since 2004 the celebration has traditionally taken place at large
22 venues (such as Paramount Theater and Benaroya Hall) in downtown
23 Seattle, usually on the Thursday before the third Monday of the month of
24 January. The celebration has traditionally been open to all county
25 employees and the public.

26 4. Each year the celebration gathering has traditionally been planned
27 using a different theme to honor Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In
28 2005, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of working towards
29 equity and justice was highlighted through the theme of "The Struggle
30 Continues". More recently in 2015, the celebration event focused on the
31 fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act
32 and was attended by over 400 people.

33 5. The annual gathering program traditionally included keynote addresses
34 from invited guests and county elected officials, performances by award
35 winning artists and local artists, musical presentations by county
36 employees, presentation of humanitarian awards to community members,
37 recognition of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest
38 winners, and readings of excerpts from Dr. King's speeches.

39 6. The annual celebration gathering has traditionally been coordinated by
40 an employee-based volunteer group and facilitated by the county's equity
41 and social justice interbranch team, established by the Equity and Social
42 Justice Ordinance (Ordinance 16948) and composed of all branches,

43 departments, agencies and offices of county government.

44 7. In 2018, after thirty years of consecutive annual gatherings, the
45 executive scaled down the celebration gathering and replaced the public
46 gathering with a "conversation cafe", which explored issues of race,
47 equity, and justice in small groups of peers, that was open to county
48 employees only.

49 8. The council recognizes the importance of this annual gathering for all
50 county residents and that the county should lead the effort to celebrate the
51 life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by memorializing
52 the annual gathering. The council also recognizes that the annual gathering
53 event should continue in a similar format as it has been done prior to 2018,
54 which includes having the gathering be open to the public.

55 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:**

56 SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this ordinance should constitute a new chapter
57 in K.C.C. Title 2.

58 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2.

59 A. The county's office of equity and social justice shall convene a team
60 composed of representatives from all branches, departments, agencies, and offices of
61 county government to plan the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. annual gathering
62 celebrating the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The team shall be
63 composed of the heads, directors or their designees from all branches, departments,
64 agencies and offices of county government.

65 B. The county's office of equity and social justice in collaboration with the

66 interbranch team shall each year convene an annual gathering celebrating the life and
67 legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The intent of the gathering shall be to:

68 1. Provide a countywide gathering for all members of the public to celebrate the
69 life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

70 2. Recognize the impact that Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has on our
71 community and our nation and bring to attention Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s
72 message of equity, social justice, and non-violence and his, political, and social
73 philosophies; and

74 3. Inspire county residents to strive in a non-violent manner for the human
75 rights, civil liberties, and economic guarantees rightfully due to all peoples.

76 C. The gathering shall be held in the second week of the month of January.

77 D. The gathering shall be open to all county employees that are available to
78 attend. Separately elected officials, department directors, and division managers shall
79 make an effort to accommodate all county employees that request to attend the gathering.

80 E. The gathering shall be open to the public.

81 F. The county's office of equity and social justice in collaboration with the
82 interbranch team should widely publicize the gathering. Publicity methods shall include,
83 but not be limited to, the official county newspaper, newspapers of general circulation
84 within each council district, king county civic television, television news outlets, social
85 media platforms, non-English language newspapers and periodicals distributed in the
86 county, and the county's website.

87 G. The gathering shall be held in a king county venue that would accommodate
88 all attendees.

89 H. The gathering shall consider including:

90 1. Presentation of the King County Medal of Distinguished Service awards;

91 2. Keynote addresses from invited guests and county elected officials;

92 3. Performances by award winning artists, local artists, or both;

93 4. Recognition of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest

94 winners; and

95 5. Readings of excerpts from Dr. King's speeches.

96 I. Costs of the gathering are hereby authorized, subject to availability of funds in

97 the county general fund.

98 J. The executive shall include a proposed budget that will cover the costs of each

99 annual gathering as part of the executive's proposed biennial budget to council.

100 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. The executive and the interbranch team, as

101 described in K.C.C. 2.10.220, may convene additional gatherings and events celebrating

102 the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and are not limited to the

103 annual gathering set forth in Section 2 of this ordinance.

104 SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to

105 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
106 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
107

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None