



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 9, 2003

Motion 11791

Proposed No. 2003-0402.2

Sponsors Sullivan, Phillips, Edmonds,
Patterson, Constantine, Pelz and
Gossett

1 A MOTION to endorse the aim of drawing attention to the
2 importance of immigrant rights of the Immigrant Workers
3 Freedom Ride.

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6 WHEREAS, we affirm the inherent dignity of all people, regardless of color,
7 religion, or immigration status, and expect equality and justice for all, and

8 WHEREAS, King County is comprised of a large percentage of immigrant and
9 refugees who make vital contributions to our economy, our community and our nation,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, immigrants are engaged in all sectors in our economy. They include
12 doctors, lawyers and other professionals in all walks of life. Immigrant workers include
13 those who clean offices, care for children and the elderly, work in restaurant and hotel
14 services. They labor in fields and factories. Nearly 50,000 members of America's armed
15 forces are immigrants who defend our country, and

16 WHEREAS, our nation’s immigration laws, at times, force many immigrants and
17 their families – who work hard and pay taxes – to live in fear of being deported for
18 simply going to work each day, and

19 WHEREAS, current immigration policies and practices often require families to
20 wait lengthy periods—sometimes up to twenty years—to be reunited with their families
21 or to obtain proper work and travel documentation, and

22 WHEREAS, despite broad public support for immigration reform that rewards
23 work, the progress that immigrant organizations, labor unions, business groups, and
24 religious leaders have made in building bipartisan political support for immigration
25 reform has been stalled by the refocus of the federal government on terrorism, and

26 WHEREAS, essential protections for workers include concerns for health and
27 safety hazards on the job, wage and hour violations, and rights to organize and improve
28 working conditions, and

29 WHEREAS, we need immigration laws that respect dignity, reflect the realities of
30 America’s 21st century workforce, reward work, prevent exploitation, and keep families
31 together;

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

33 A. We call for immigration laws that allow all people appropriate paths to apply
34 for legalization of immigration status and the opportunity to apply for citizenship;

35 B. We will continue to work together in coalitions with immigrant, labor,
36 community, business, and religious groups to protect the rights of King County’s
37 immigrant families and individuals; and

38 C. We hereby endorse the aim of drawing attention to the importance of
39 immigrant rights of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, leaving Seattle on September
40 23, 2003.

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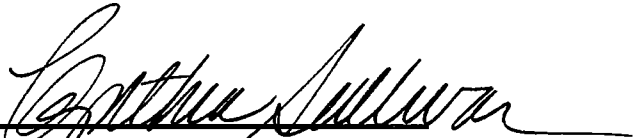
Motion 11791 was introduced on 8/25/2003 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/8/2003, by the following vote:

Yes: 11 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz,
Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Ms.
Patterson

No: 0

Excused: 2 - Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Hammond

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None