



**Signature Report**

**Ordinance**

**Proposed No.** 2021-0330.1

**Sponsors** McDermott

1           AN ORDINANCE adopting the Initial Health through  
2           Housing Implementation Plan to govern the expenditure of  
3           sales and use tax proceeds authorized by K.C.C. chapter  
4           4A.503 and RCW 82.14.530 from 2022 through 2028 and  
5           creating the health through housing advisory committee;  
6           and adding a new section to K.C.C. chapter 4A.300.

7           STATEMENT OF FACTS:

8           1. In December 2018, the King County regional affordable housing task  
9           force found that the region needs an additional forty-four thousand homes  
10          affordable for very low- and extremely low-income households over the  
11          next five years.

12          2. Additional funding is required to address the urgent need for affordable  
13          housing in King County.

14          3. In November 2015, King County declared a state of emergency to  
15          address the homelessness crisis.

16          4. As of December 31, 2020, more than three thousand eight hundred  
17          households receiving homeless services in King County are experiencing  
18          chronic homelessness.

- 19           5. Studies show that people experiencing chronic homelessness  
20           experience more negative physical health, lower behavioral health  
21           outcomes and victimization.
- 22           6. Studies show the costs of permanent supportive housing for these  
23           households is far less than the crisis system costs from these households  
24           experiencing homelessness.
- 25           7. One-room settings, in particular permanent affordable housing with  
26           supportive services, are proven to improve health outcomes and housing  
27           stability and reduce crisis system use.
- 28           8. As of August 11, 2021, more than six hundred ten thousand Americans  
29           had died from COVID-19.
- 30           9. Persons living in congregate shelters are particularly vulnerable to  
31           rapid spread of airborne disease like COVID-19 because persons living in  
32           congregate shelters are disproportionately persons of color, older than  
33           average, experiencing higher rates of underlying health conditions, and by  
34           definition without a safe place in which to observe social distancing and  
35           best practices of hygiene.
- 36           10. In 2020, the Regional Action Framework identified a need for six  
37           thousand five hundred additional units of supportive housing for people  
38           experiencing chronic homelessness.
- 39           11. In 2020, only thirty-seven percent of adult Medicaid enrollees with an  
40           identified need for substance use disorder treatment in King County

41 received treatment, and only half of those needing mental health treatment  
42 received treatment.

43 12. To combat the intersecting crises of COVID-19, chronic  
44 homelessness, housing affordability and behavioral health disorder, there  
45 is need for a robust approach that provides more stable affordable housing  
46 for those experiencing chronic homelessness, and at risk of chronic  
47 homelessness, and increases access to behavioral health treatment and  
48 housing-stability services for those households.

49 13. In the 2020 Regular Session, the Washington state Legislature  
50 approved, and the Governor signed, Substitute House Bill 1590, which  
51 became Chapter 222, Laws of Washington 2020 (the act”).

52 14. The act authorizes the governing body of a county to impose a local  
53 sales and use tax for affordable housing, housing-related services, the  
54 operations and maintenance costs of affordable housing and facilities  
55 where housing-related programs are provided, behavioral health-related  
56 facilities, newly constructed evaluation and treatment centers, and the  
57 operation, delivery or evaluation of behavioral health treatment programs  
58 and services.

59 15. The metropolitan King County council has determined that imposing  
60 the sales and use tax to improve the region's health outcomes and address  
61 the housing affordability crisis will benefit the county's residents.

62 16. K.C.C. chapter 4A.503 imposed in King County the tax authorized  
63 under the act, established certain priorities and objectives for the use of the  
64 proceeds and the deposit of proceeds in the health through housing fund.

65 17. In the 2021 Regular Session, the Washington state Legislature  
66 approved, and the Governor signed, Engrossed Substitute House Bill  
67 1070, which became Chapter 27, Laws of Washington 2021, amending the  
68 act to permit acquisition of existing structures or land for affordable  
69 housing, housing-related services, or behavioral health-related facilities as  
70 an allowable use of the sales and use tax proceeds.

71 18. K.C.C. 24.30.020 requires the executive to develop and transmit for  
72 council review and adoption by ordinance an initial implementation plan  
73 for use of proceeds from the sales and use tax authorized by K.C.C.  
74 chapter 4A.503 and RCW 82.14.530. The initial implementation plan,  
75 once effective, will govern the expenditure of sales and use tax proceeds  
76 from 2022 through 2028.

77 19. The initial implementation plan adopted by this ordinance was  
78 developed in consultation with the affordable housing committee and the  
79 chief executive officer of the King County Regional Homelessness  
80 Authority.

81 20. The initial implementation plan adopted by this ordinance describes  
82 the: goals; strategies; performance measures; reporting requirements;  
83 annual expenditure plan to direct the use of proceeds from 2022 through  
84 2028; responsibilities of a health through housing advisory committee;

85 processes for working with other jurisdictions and partnerships; and  
86 manner of satisfying the requirements of RCW 82.14.530.

87 21. K.C.C chapter 24.30 requires that the implementation plan adoption  
88 ordinance form a health through housing advisory committee, to provide  
89 advice to the executive and council and to report annually to the council  
90 and the community on the accomplishments and effectiveness of the  
91 expenditure of proceeds.

92 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

93 SECTION 1. The Initial Health through Housing Implementation Plan, dated  
94 August 30, 2021, Attachment A to this ordinance, is hereby adopted to govern the  
95 expenditure of the sales and use tax proceeds as authorized by K.C.C. chapter 4A.503 and  
96 RCW 82.14.530, from 2022 through 2028.

97 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 2A.300  
98 a new section to read as follows:

99 A. The health through housing advisory committee is created to provide advice to  
100 the executive and council and report annually to the council and community on the  
101 accomplishments and effectiveness of the expenditure of sales and use tax proceeds as  
102 authorized by K.C.C. chapter 4A.503 and RCW 82.14.530. Annual reporting to the  
103 council and the community shall include information on the allocation by jurisdiction of  
104 sales and use tax proceeds as authorized by K.C.C. chapter 4A.503 and RCW 82.14.530.  
105 The committee shall annually send a letter electronically to the executive and the clerk of  
106 the council no later than June 15, beginning in 2023, to notify them that the committee's  
107 annual reporting through a website update is available for review. The clerk of the

108 council shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all  
109 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the committee of the  
110 whole, or its successor.

111 B. The committee shall be comprised of between twelve and sixteen members to  
112 be appointed by the executive, in accordance with this section. Membership shall  
113 include:

- 114 1. Persons who have experienced homelessness;
- 115 2. Persons representative of racial and ethnic communities that are  
116 demographically disproportionately represented among persons experiencing chronic  
117 homelessness in King County;
- 118 3. Residents of cities with populations greater than sixty thousand persons and  
119 of unincorporated areas; and
- 120 4. Representatives from other county, city and subregional boards, commissions  
121 or committees to promote regional coordination and coordination across King County  
122 human services investments.

123 C. Before appointing members to the committee, the executive shall provide  
124 notice to the council, setting forth the name, biography and term of each proposed  
125 committee member. The executive shall send the notice electronically to the clerk of the  
126 council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all  
127 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the committee of the  
128 whole, or its successor. Unless the council adopts a motion requesting changes to the  
129 proposed appointments within thirty days following receipt of the executive's notice, the  
130 executive may proceed with appointments set forth in the notice.

131           D. The executive shall establish initial terms of appointment, with one-third of  
132 positions having an initial term of two years, one-third of positions having an initial term  
133 of three years and the remainder of the positions having an initial term of four years. All  
134 subsequent terms shall be for four years. A person shall not serve on the committee for  
135 more than four consecutive years.

136           SECTION 3. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** A. Appendix A - Initial Health through Housing Implementation Plan 2022-2028