



King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay

Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

April 17, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, rename the park parcel #7812801985 of Skyway Park as Black Panther Park in honor of the legacy of the Seattle Black Panther Party chapter, its dedication to community and to racial justice, and its profound influence on King County.

The name Black Panther Park was chosen by the community with the desire to honor the Seattle Black Panther Chapter and the positive impact it had on the Skyway community and the entire King County area. The Seattle Black Panther Chapter established various community focused programs and resources, some of the most impactful included the free breakfast program for all children, and a free medical clinic in Seattle's Central District that is still in operation today and is now known as the Carolyn Downs Medical Center.

In developing the proposed legislation, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks engaged partners including Nurturing Roots, West Hill Community Association, and the Silent Task Force. Each organization supports the proposed legislation.

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

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposed Ordinance. This proposed legislation will honor the Seattle Black Panther chapter's legacy and positive impact on King County.

If your staff have questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4525.

The Honorable Sarah Perry

April 3, 2026

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karan Gill". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "K" and "G".

for

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive

Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive

Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive

Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Warren Jimenez, Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP