

S1

April 29, 2014

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Sponsor: Dembowski

Proposed No.: 2014-0058

1 **STRIKING AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED MOTION 2014-0058, VERSION 1**

2 On page 1, beginning on line 4, strike everything through page 8, line 152, and insert:

3 "WHEREAS, King County's policies are designed to foster and promote a healthy
4 economic environment for individual county residents and their families, including jobs
5 and wages that are sufficient to support a family, and

6 WHEREAS, one of the stated objectives toward achieving the goal of Economic
7 Growth and Built Environment under the King County Strategic Plan is to "support a
8 strong, diverse, and sustainable economy," and

9 WHEREAS, one of the stated indicators of whether that objective has been
10 attained is the "percent of jobs paying a living wage," and

11 WHEREAS, according to The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State
12 2011, a report prepared for the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County,
13 the Washington state minimum wage is insufficient to meet the basic needs of working
14 families. Specifically, the current minimum wage for Washington state, which is \$9.32
15 per hour as of April 2014, is less than the 2011 "self-sufficiency standard" by between
16 twelve percent and seventy-three percent, depending on the number of adults and
17 children in the family and the family's specific location within King County, and

18 WHEREAS, employees who are paid less than a living wage are more likely to be
19 eligible for and rely upon government programs for assistance, including programs such
20 as subsidized food, housing, health care, bus fare and utilities, resulting in an indirect and
21 unwarranted taxpayer subsidy to their employers, and

22 WHEREAS, according to a December 2013 report by the Alliance for a Just
23 Society, a national network of twelve racial and economic justice organizations:

24 1. The Washington state minimum wage, which is \$9.32 per hour as of January
25 2014, is:

26 a. forty-two percent less than a living wage for a single adult; the report defines
27 living wage as a wage that allows families to meet their basic needs without public
28 assistance and that provides them some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead;

29 b. fifty-eight percent less than a living wage for a single adult with a school-age
30 child aged six through eight years;

31 c. sixty-nine percent less than a living wage for a single adult with a toddler
32 aged twelve through twenty-four months and a school-age child;

33 d. sixty-nine percent less than a living wage for two adults, with one working
34 and with a toddler and a school-age child; and

35 e. fifty-three percent less than a living wage for two adults, with both working
36 and with a toddler and a school-age child;

37 2. The percentage of all job openings paying less than a living wage in
38 Washington state in 2012 was: forty-one percent for a household consisting of a single
39 adult; sixty-one percent for a single adult with one child; seventy-eight for a single adult

40 with two children; and eighty percent for two adults, with one working, with two
41 children;

42 3. The percentage of United States jobs that pay less than \$15 per hour increased
43 from 36.55 percent in 2009 to 39.45 percent in 2012, reaching a total of 51.4 million in
44 2012; and

45 4. The number of jobs in occupational categories with median wages above \$15
46 per hour dropped by four million from 2009 to 2012, masked by an increase of 3.6
47 million jobs with median wages below \$15 an hour, and

48 WHEREAS, according to the Economic Policy Institute, from the 1940s to the
49 1970s, real hourly compensation of production/nonsupervisory workers increased at
50 roughly the same rate as worker productivity, but between 1973 and 2011, while
51 productivity increased by about eighty percent, median real hourly compensation
52 increased by only about eleven percent, and

53 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, minimum wage workers
54 are disproportionately women and people of color, and it is an aim of King County's
55 equity and social justice initiative to eliminate such disparities, and

56 WHEREAS, many of those working in King County are having trouble meeting
57 their basic needs in light of stagnating wages, while the cost of living continues to grow,
58 and

59 WHEREAS, according to the National Employment Law Project, legislation
60 requiring employers to pay a living wage has been adopted in more than one hundred
61 twenty-five cities and counties across the nation, including about half of the twenty-five
62 largest cities by population, but King County, the thirteenth-largest county in the nation,

63 has no living wage policy for its contractors and others doing business with or receiving
64 benefits from King County, and

65 WHEREAS, the council seeks to explore the advisability of adopting a living
66 wage ordinance to advance the county's strategic objectives of "support[ing] a strong,
67 diverse, and sustainable economy" and promoting equity and social justice.

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

69 A. It is the policy of King County that a living wage should be paid to county
70 employees and to the employees of persons, businesses, organizations and other entities
71 that receive procurement contracts, tax exemptions or credits, or other financial benefits
72 from the county.

73 B. To explore the policy implications of implementing the living wage policy set
74 forth in subsection A of this motion, the council requests the assistance of the county
75 executive in assessing the costs, benefits and other consequences of adopting a living
76 wage ordinance setting a minimum level of compensation for all county employees and
77 for the employees of persons, businesses, organizations and other entities receiving or
78 applying for county procurement contracts, county tax exemptions or credits or other
79 financial benefits from King County. In particular, the council asks the executive to
80 provide to the council, no later than June 13, 2014, a report that includes:

81 1. A list, by classification, not name, of all county employees who are being
82 compensated at a rate lower than fifteen dollars per hour (excluding benefits), including
83 each employee's rate of compensation and the county department and division in which
84 he or she is employed;

85 2. A list of all contracts the county currently has with non-government entities,
86 in an amount greater than \$25,000, for the provision of goods or services to the county or
87 to third parties, excluding employment and labor agreements. The list should include the
88 name of the entity, the term of the agreement, a brief description of the goods or services
89 and the total amount of all the required payments;

90 3. A list of all nongovernment entities that have received or are expected to
91 receive tax exemptions or credits or other financial benefits from the county in a total
92 amount greater than \$25,000, except for those required under state or federal law,
93 including the name of the entity, a brief description of the exemption, credit or other
94 benefit, and the dollar amount; and

95 4. Such other information as the executive would like the council to include in
96 its consideration of whether to adopt a living wage ordinance or as the council or its staff
97 may subsequently request.

98 C. The policy stated in section A. of this motion is not intended to apply to other
99 general purpose governments, such as the federal government, state governments or other
100 counties, cities or towns, receiving or applying for: county procurement or other
101 contracts; county tax exemptions or credits; or other financial benefits from King County.

102 D. The report requested in section B. of this motion should be submitted in the
103 form of a paper original and an electronic copy to the clerk of the council, who shall
104 retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief
105 of staff, the lead staff for the transportation, economy and environment committee, or its
106 successor, and the council's legislative analyst primarily assigned to labor relations
107 issues."

108 **EFFECT:** *Extensively revises the original motion.*