



## KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

November 15, 2016

## Motion 14754

Proposed No. 2016-0537.1

Sponsors Balducci, McDermott, Upthegrove,  
Kohl-Welles, Dembowski and Gossett

1           A MOTION expressing support for regional planning,  
2           coordination and funding efforts to address the challenges  
3           of homelessness and housing affordability in King County.

4           WHEREAS, at the end of September 2016, the median single-family home price  
5           in King County was nearly five hundred thousand dollars, more than three hundred  
6           thousand dollars above the national median, and

7           WHEREAS, King County home prices increased more than fourteen percent  
8           between September 2015 and 2016, a rate of increase more than double the national  
9           average, and

10          WHEREAS, at the end of September 2016, the median monthly rental price in  
11          King County was two thousand two hundred fifty dollars, more than seven hundred  
12          dollars above the national median, and

13          WHEREAS, these housing price levels have resulted in nearly three hundred  
14          thousand households in King County spending more than thirty percent of their incomes  
15          on housing, and

16          WHEREAS, far too many people have been unable to afford any type of housing,  
17          with nearly ten thousand people experiencing homelessness on any given day during  
18          2016, and

19 WHEREAS, during the third quarter of 2016, one thousand one hundred seventy-  
20 two homeless families applied to King County for permanent housing, and

21 WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing and the crisis of homelessness are  
22 being felt in every community in the county, and

23 WHEREAS, King County, local jurisdictions, private and nonprofit partners and  
24 philanthropic organizations have come together to address the challenges of  
25 homelessness and housing affordability: through the efforts of All Home to make  
26 homelessness rare, brief and one-time; through the work of the King County consortium  
27 to assess community development and housing needs countywide and to allocate state  
28 and federal funding; and through the work of the growth management planning council to  
29 develop strategies to meet housing needs through local planning and zoning initiatives,  
30 and

31 WHEREAS, the King County council voted earlier this year to issue eighty seven  
32 million dollars in bond financing backed by lodging taxes to support the development of  
33 affordable housing near transit hubs, and

34 WHEREAS, the King County council voted earlier this year to approve the  
35 regional equitable development initiative fund to develop workforce housing near transit  
36 hubs and appropriated three million five hundred thousand dollars in local and grant  
37 funds toward this effort, and

38 WHEREAS, the voters of King County approved the best starts for kids levy,  
39 which includes nineteen million dollars to support a youth and family homelessness  
40 prevention initiative, and

41 WHEREAS, the King County council is working with regional partners to renew  
42 the mental illness and drug dependency levy, which includes supportive services for  
43 people in need, and

44 WHEREAS, the King County council is working with regional partners to  
45 examine the possibility of submitting a proposal to the voters to renew the veterans and  
46 human services levy, which includes services and support for veterans and others in need  
47 in our community, and

48 WHEREAS, the King County council has made difficult choices in its 2017-2018  
49 biennial budget to allocate an additional seven million five hundred thousand dollars to  
50 provide emergency shelter and services to those experiencing homelessness, joining  
51 communities around the region that are increasing local support to help those in need, and

52 WHEREAS, even with these new resources, and despite the ongoing regional  
53 efforts, the magnitude of the housing and homelessness challenge facing this region  
54 requires a more intensive and coordinated regional approach;

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

56 A. The King County council, working in coordination with the King County  
57 executive, will convene a regional planning effort during 2017 that includes cities,  
58 nonprofit agencies and private partners to develop a regional plan for affordable housing.

59 B. The regional planning effort will lead to a plan that includes identification of  
60 the roles of the participating partners and others, data collection efforts, funding needs,  
61 strategies and recommendations for action. The regional planning effort will incorporate  
62 and build upon the significant planning and efforts already underway in many  
63 jurisdictions.

64           C. As part of this regional effort, the King County council will work with the  
65   King County executive and regional partners to explore the affordable housing funding  
66   authority provided to local governments by the Washington state Legislature in 2015  
67   through RCW 82.14.530.

68           D. The King County council requests the King County executive to report on the  
69   status of this effort by March 31, 2017. The report should be filed in the form of a paper

70 original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original  
71 and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers.  
72

Motion 14754 was introduced on 11/14/2016 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/14/2016, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None