



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

RPC Resolution

Proposed No. RPC2021-02.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION expressing the regional policy
2 committee's commitment to equity and social justice.

3 WHEREAS, King County is a great place to live, learn, work and play, with a
4 robust economy, stunning natural beauty, thriving cultural and arts scene and rich
5 diversity by race and ethnicity, and

6 WHEREAS, despite those strengths, there are persistent inequities by race and
7 place for many community conditions and systems, such as strong neighborhoods,
8 healthy local foods, quality education, early childhood development, the law and justice
9 system, health and human services and affordable housing, and

10 WHEREAS, systemic and institutional racism are barriers for Black, Indigenous
11 and People of Color that extends beyond police brutality to the health and wellness of our
12 communities, and

13 WHEREAS, the King County council unanimously adopted Ordinance 16948,
14 which is also referred to as the Equity and Social Justice Ordinance, in 2010, defining
15 equity for the county and identifying determinants of equity and priorities for government
16 in advancing equity, and

17 WHEREAS, racism has prevented communities of color from equitable access to
18 the social determinants of equity to include affordable housing, health care, food security,
19 the justice system, education, jobs and livable wages, to reach their full potential and

20 thrive, and

21 WHEREAS, the 2016-2022 King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan
22 is a blueprint for action and change and aims to expand access to opportunity in eight
23 areas, including child and youth development, economic development and jobs,
24 environment and climate, health and human services, housing, information and
25 technology, the justice system and transportation and mobility, and

26 WHEREAS, the regional policy committee reviews and recommends regional
27 policies and plans, including health and human services, open space, affordable housing
28 and homelessness, review of county-wide levy plans, solid waste management, economic
29 development, road investments, criminal justice, emergency management planning, jails
30 and district court services and the siting of regional facilities;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the King County regional policy
32 committee:

33 A. The regional policy committee commits to ensuring that its decisions, policies
34 and practices produce gains for all, while targeting many of the benefits where needs are
35 greatest.

36 B. The regional policy committee seeks a King County where race and place are
37 eliminated as predictors of prosperity and quality of life for the residents of King County.

38 C. The regional policy committee commits to engaging in its work using the
39 shared values of equity and social justice described in the 2016-2022 King County Equity
40 and Social Justice Strategic Plan. Those values include:

41 1. Inclusive and collaborative. The committee recognizes that policies that are
42 developed by engaging and including communities and employees early, continuously,

43 and meaningfully will achieve better outcomes. The committee supports policies and
44 actions that work to break down silos and that partner and convene across government
45 and organizations;

46 2. Diverse and people-focused. The committee seeks to represent the mosaic of
47 our communities to better serve and nurture respect and dignity by valuing every person's
48 leadership, strengths and assets;

49 3. Responsive and adaptive. The committee seeks to be culturally and
50 linguistically responsive to and driven by employees and community;

51 4. Transparent and accountable. The committee seeks to build trust and
52 common understanding by being transparent and accountable in its actions and processes
53 and by supporting clear and accountable performance measurement;

54 5. Racially just. The committee supports policies that dismantle systems,
55 policies, and practices that perpetuate structural racism, inequities and different forms of
56 discrimination based on power and privilege; and

57 6. Focused upstream and where needs are greatest. The committee supports

58 policies that are focused upstream on root causes and sustainable solutions where returns
59 are greatest and on populations and places with the greatest needs.
60

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None