



**Signature Report**

**Motion 15512**

**Proposed No.** 2019-0166.3

**Sponsors** Dunn, Kohl-Welles and Balducci

1           A MOTION requesting that the executive develop a report  
2           with recommendations for adding requirements related to  
3           human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation  
4           awareness training and testing for for-hire drivers.

5           WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking, where persons profit from the control  
6           and exploitation of others and as defined under federal and state law, includes sex  
7           trafficking where a person is induced to perform a commercial sex act by force, fraud,  
8           coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under age eighteen and  
9           labor trafficking where a person is forced into different forms of "labor or services,  
10          through the use of force, fraud or coercion, for the purposes of subjecting that person to  
11          involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery," such as domestic workers held in  
12          a home or farm workers forced to labor against their will, and

13          WHEREAS, human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest-growing  
14          criminal industries in the world, with human trafficking and commercial sexual  
15          exploitation having been identified as serious crime problems in King County, in  
16          Washington state and worldwide, and

17          WHEREAS, Washington was the first state to criminalize human trafficking in  
18          2003. Washington state has some of the most comprehensive laws critical to the fight  
19          against human trafficking, punishing traffickers and supporting survivors, and is rated

20 most outstanding by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center's Polaris Project,  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the 2008 Report of the Washington Task Force against the  
23 Trafficking of Human Persons recommended among its urgent priorities the need to:  
24 educate Washington communities about human trafficking; provide support to implement  
25 community-driven antitrafficking strategies, including primary prevention efforts; and  
26 help victims escape their situations by making one-on-one contact with people who may  
27 be in trafficking situations, and

28 WHEREAS, the King County Metro transit department participates in the Safe  
29 Place program to assist at-risk youth in finding support services, and public information  
30 about human trafficking to educate the public about human trafficking and inform victims  
31 about resources available to them, simultaneously addressing the needs of individual  
32 victims of trafficking are in need of services and protection, and

33 WHEREAS, King County regulates taxicabs, for-hire, and transportation network  
34 companies, vehicles and drivers. The regulations are intended to ensure that customers  
35 can use these transportation options in a safe manner, and

36 WHEREAS, in 1995, King County entered into an interlocal agreement with the  
37 city of Seattle, whereby King County manages all for-hire driver licensing functions for  
38 both jurisdictions. In addition, the county has interlocal service agreements with sixteen  
39 cities and the Port of Seattle to provide all for-hire transportation regulatory services.

40 WHEREAS, as required by K.C.C 6.64.070, all new for-hire driver applicants are  
41 required to complete driver training and pass the for-hire driver examination. The  
42 prospective drivers are tested on fare determination, driver-passenger relations, driver

43 conduct, ability to understand oral and written directions, vehicle safety requirements,  
44 driver regulations, emergency procedures, geographic knowledge of the county and  
45 personal safety equipment, and

46 WHEREAS, in 2017 there were 2,453 taxi and for-hire drivers licensed and a  
47 further 27,842 transportation network company drivers that received permits from the  
48 county, and in 2017 these drivers transported passengers on nearly 25 million trips  
49 countywide, and

50 WHEREAS, there are significant federal, state and local resources, including  
51 those from the private sector, related to training regarding the identification of human  
52 trafficking and commercially sexually exploited victims and survivors. Further, some  
53 transportation network companies are voluntarily providing training to their drivers  
54 regarding trafficking;

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

56 A. The executive is requested to develop or acquire a proposed curriculum for  
57 for-hire drivers as part of the required driver training for a for-hire license in King  
58 County. The executive should examine existing resources for training materials to help  
59 increase awareness and educate drivers on the indicators of human trafficking and  
60 commercial sexual exploitation, the identification of human trafficking and commercially  
61 sexually exploited victims and how to report human trafficking to the appropriate local  
62 authorities to protect victims and survivors.

63 B. The training program should be focus on three goals:

64 1. Raising driver awareness about the nature of human trafficking, how and  
65 where it occurs locally and how to prevent and stop it;

66           2. Helping drivers identify potential victims and survivors; and

67           3. Providing drivers with information on how victims and survivors might gain  
68 access to services.

69           C. The executive shall seek to use existing successful strategies for anti-human-  
70 trafficking education and training materials already available from federal, state and  
71 county agencies. In addition, the executive should review any available training  
72 materials developed for human trafficking awareness by companies from the private  
73 sector, especially any materials that have been developed by transportation network  
74 companies or any other company that provides transport services to passengers.

75           D. The development of recommended training options for drivers should be done  
76 in collaboration with subject matter experts, such as national, state and local advocacy  
77 groups; the transit department; the department of community and human services; the city  
78 of Seattle, the Port of Seattle and public health - Seattle & King County. The King  
79 County prosecuting attorney's office and the King County superior court are encouraged  
80 to review the proposed education materials and curriculum.

81           E. The human trafficking public information materials used in the education and  
82 training curriculum shall be accessible in multiple languages and should include contact  
83 information for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline.

84           F. The executive should evaluate these materials and make recommendations for  
85 a plan for a proposed training program for drivers, recommendations on how the drivers  
86 will be tested on the content of the education materials and an estimate of the costs and  
87 other resources necessary to implement the training and examination requirements. The  
88 executive should also include a description of how for-hire drivers with existing licenses

89 could receive this training.

90 G. The executive is requested to transmit to the council by April 1, 2020, a report  
91 with recommendations for human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation  
92 awareness training and testing for for-hire drivers, as required by this motion, in the form

93 of a paper original and an electronic copy filed with the clerk of the council, who shall  
94 retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers.  
95

Motion 15512 was introduced on 4/24/2019 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/11/2019, 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



KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Dembowski", written over a horizontal line.

Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melani Pedroza", written over a horizontal line.

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None