

**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report****June 30, 2016****Motion****Proposed No. 2016-0318.1****Sponsors Kohl-Welles**

1           A MOTION directing the clerk of the council to develop a  
2           plan to create a gender-neutral King County Code.

3           WHEREAS, the King County Code was mostly created in the 1970s and 1980s,  
4           though some provisions date back to at least the 1940s. Since the creation of the code, it  
5           has been subject to many amendments each year, and

6           WHEREAS, to align with the county's equity and social justice principles,  
7           gender-specific language should be corrected because it can reflect a bias for or against  
8           certain persons, and

9           WHEREAS, gender-specific language can also reflect biases, which are  
10          detrimental to well-written and effective law, and

11          WHEREAS, K.C.C. 1.03.120, which was enacted in 2000, requires that  
12          ordinances and motions be drafted prospectively in gender-neutral terms, and the council  
13          has amended the code to use gender-neutral terms to comply with that requirement, and

14          WHEREAS, because the council's efforts to update the code have depended on  
15          whatever other amendments are proposed, the progress made on creating a fully gender-  
16          neutral code has been slow, and

17          WHEREAS, the Washington state Legislature, in Chapter 218, Laws of  
18          Washington 2007, gave similar direction to the state's Office of the Code Reviser to  
19          develop and implement a plan make technical changes to the Revised Code of

20 Washington to apply gender-neutral references throughout the Revised Code of  
21 Washington, and set a timeline for completion of the revision;

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

23 A. It is the intent of the council that the entire King County Code be updated to  
24 use gender-neutral language.

25 B. The clerk of the council, in consultation with the executive branch and  
26 separately elected officials, is directed to develop and implement a plan to propose  
27 amendments to apply gender-neutral references throughout the entire King County Code.  
28 The plan should include a timeline for implementation and identify the executive branch  
29 agencies to be consulted. The clerk should present the plan and the timeline to the chair  
30 of the council no later than September 30, 2016.

31 C. The clerk, the executive branch and separately elected officials may also

Motion

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32 propose other amendments to the code that are necessary to clarify the code for the  
33 operation of county government.  
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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None