



January 22, 2018

The Honorable Larry Gossett, Chair
The Honorable Kathy Lambert, Vice Chair
King County Law and Justice Committee
516 Third Ave, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: City of Kirkland support for Proposed Ordinance 2017-0487 - Enhancing Trust and Fairness for King County Immigrant Communities

Dear Chair Gossett, Vice Chair Lambert, and members of the King County Law and Justice Committee;

On behalf of the Kirkland City Council, I am writing to express the City of Kirkland's support for King County Proposed Ordinance 2017-0487 - Enhancing Trust and Fairness for King County Immigrant Communities.

Nearly a year ago, on February 21, 2017, the Kirkland City Council passed two similar pieces of legislation. The first was Resolution R-5240, which declared Kirkland as a safe, inclusive and welcoming city for all people. R-5240 formalized the City of Kirkland's commitment to protect and serve people of all incomes, ages, abilities, races, nationalities, cultures, gender identities and religions.

The second piece of legislation was Ordinance O-4558, establishing a new chapter of the Kirkland Municipal Code relating to sustaining Kirkland as a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community. O-4558 generally prohibited any City employee, police officer or corrections officer from inquiring into immigration status or collecting information regarding religious affiliation. Key goals of O-4558 were to foster trust and cooperation between City personnel and law enforcement officials and immigrant communities to improve crime prevention and public safety and to promote the public health and welfare of all City of Kirkland residents. O-4558 underwent extensive legal review and is intended to be consistent with federal law, specifically including 8 U.S.S. 1373.

Like King County, we understand that to have a safe, inclusive and welcoming society, it is particularly important to protect our immigrant and refugee communities. King County Ordinance 2017-0487 appears to promote similar protections and desired outcomes to Kirkland's two legislative actions. Therefore, Kirkland strongly supports the intent and goals of the ordinance. However, counties are far larger and more complex than cities and this ordinance is more detailed than Kirkland's ordinance. Therefore we encourage the King County Council to complete a similar legal review and ensure that all elements of Proposed Ordinance 2017-0487 comply with federal law before final adoption.

Now, more than ever, it is critical that local governments take every action we can to protect all people who live, work and play in our borders. We are proud that Martin Luther King Jr., County is considering such a strong stand on behalf of the immigrants and refugees who are our friends and neighbors and who help make our communities so diverse and so vibrant. We applaud the King County Council and urge your adoption of Proposed Ordinance 2017-0487.

Sincerely,
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Walen".

Amy Walen, Mayor
City of Kirkland

Cc – King County Council members