



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Resolution 22-02

Proposed No. 22-02.2

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging the Washington State
2 Legislature to address racism as a public health crisis,
3 including addressing gun violence, gender-based violence
4 and the opioid crisis.

5 WHEREAS, racism ingrained in our institutions, policies and practices have
6 harmful impacts that unfairly disadvantage Black, Indigenous and People of Color
7 ("BIPOC") and unfairly advantages people who identify as white, and

8 WHEREAS, decades of data collected by Public Health - Seattle & King County
9 have demonstrated how BIPOC communities are affected by both acute impacts, such as
10 gun violence, and chronic impacts such as higher rates of cardiovascular disease and
11 diabetes, maternal and infant mortality, underweight babies and shorter lives overall, and

12 WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, the King County Board of Health passed
13 Resolution 20-08 declaring racism a public health crisis and committing to work to
14 advance a public health approach in addressing institutional and systemic racism, and

15 WHEREAS, the public health system works to prevent illness and disease while
16 supporting the work of community partners, and

17 WHEREAS, King County is taking a public health approach to tackling gun
18 violence in our communities as youth gun violence is a fatal epidemic where Black,
19 LatinX, and Indigenous young people in King County are disproportionately being
20 exposed to gun violence, and

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21 WHEREAS, impacts of gender-based violence are compounded by racial, gender,
22 sexual orientation and other forms of oppression, and Black, Indigenous and other people
23 of color, people living in poverty, LGBTQ2S+ people, elders, people with disabilities and
24 other people targeted by oppression are affected by gender-based violence in significant
25 and complex ways, including reduced access to appropriate supports, and

26 WHEREAS, fentanyl and other drug overdoses continue to grow exponentially
27 year after year in King County with fentanyl representing approximately half of overdose
28 deaths;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
30 County:

31 The Board of Health calls on the Washington State Legislature to urgently address
32 racism as a public health crisis by:

33 A. Passing policies that provide education and incentives for safe storage of
34 firearms;

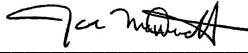
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- 35 B. Supporting efforts to address gender-based violence; and
- 36 C. Addressing the opioid epidemic.

Resolution 22-02 was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 1/20/2022, by the following vote:


Yes: 11 - Baker, Daniell, de Castro, Herbold, Kohl-Welles,
McDermott, Morales and Zahilay
Excused: 1 - Mosqueda
Abstain: 1 - Honda

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

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Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None