



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16157

Proposed No. 2022-0229.2

Sponsors Dembowski, Kohl-Welles, von Reichbauer and Dunn

1 A MOTION requesting the executive develop an
2 implementation plan to establish a personal locator beacon
3 lending program.

4 WHEREAS, a personal locator beacon ("PLB") is a small portable device that
5 transmits a personalized distress signal in the 406 MHz spectrum range to a National
6 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA")-operated fleet of geostationary
7 satellites ("COSPAS-SARSAT") which, for the mainland United States, routes the signal
8 to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, which in turn alerts the relevant search and
9 rescue jurisdiction. For King County, the alert is sent to the state of Washington Search
10 and Rescue coordinator and is then sent to the King County sheriff's office, and

11 WHEREAS, all PLBs are required by federal law to be registered with NOAA
12 with a name, address, phone number and any pertinent information such as medical
13 problems, and this information is sent to search and rescue personnel along with the GPS
14 location, and

15 WHEREAS, NOAA credits COSPAS-SARSAT, which transmit emergency
16 beacons including PLB signals, from saving three hundred thirty lives in 2021, and

17 WHEREAS, in partnership with the sheriff's office, King County Search and
18 Rescue conducts over two hundred missions annually, which include numerous
19 backcountry rescues, and

Motion 16157

20 WHEREAS, the King County department of natural resources and parks, parks
21 division, manages thirty-two thousand acres of open space and two hundred fifty miles of
22 backcountry trails with year-round accessibility for hiking, mountain biking and
23 horseback riding, and

24 WHEREAS, the National Park Service recommends taking a PLB when going
25 into the backcountry or wilderness area where mobile phone coverage is limited, and

26 WHEREAS, the Washington Trails Association states that PLBs have saved
27 many lives and should be strongly considered by all backcountry travelers, and

28 WHEREAS, the Washington state Parks and Recreation Commission also
29 recommends carrying a PLB while paddleboarding and boating, and

30 WHEREAS, as of June 2022, the retail price for a PLB ranged from one hundred
31 dollars to six hundred dollars, making the purchase unaffordable to many lower income
32 individuals and thereby increasing disparate safety outcomes depending on income level,
33 and

34 WHEREAS, the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska established a free
35 PLB program to provide service members and civil-service employees the ability to
36 check out a PLB to enhance safety while enjoying the outdoors, and

37 WHEREAS, the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service in
38 Australia also lends PLBs for free at its visitor centers and police stations;

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

40 A. The council requests that the executive develop an implementation plan to
41 establish a personal locator beacon ("PLB") lending program. The program shall lend

Motion 16157

42 PLBs at no cost or low cost to King County residents or visitors to King County Parks, or
43 both. The implementation plan should include, but not be limited to, the following:

44 1. An estimate of the costs to implement the program, including funding source
45 options;

46 2. Consideration of whether establishing partnerships with private entities such
47 as Recreational Equipment, Inc., and nonprofit entities such as the Washington Trails
48 Association and King County Search and Rescue to support the program is advisable;

49 3. Strategies to ensure the program is publicized widely throughout the county
50 to bring awareness of the program and throughout the state to encourage other local
51 jurisdictions to follow suit;

52 4. A plan to educate program participants to ensure they continue to plan and
53 prepare and exercise safety practices and rely on PLBs as last resort;

54 5. Considerations to expand the scope of the program to include paddleboarders,
55 boaters, snow skiers and others who participate in recreational water and snow activities;
56 and

57 6. A project plan to enable launch of the program in 2023.

58 B. The executive should electronically file the implementation plan no later than
59 May 31, 2023, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and
60 provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead
61 staff for the transportation, economy and environment committee, or its successor.

Motion 16157

- 62 C. The council requests that the executive include an appropriation in the 2023-
63 2024 Proposed Biennial Budget to enable launch of the PLB lending program in 2023.

Motion 16157 was introduced on 6/14/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/5/2022, by the following vote:

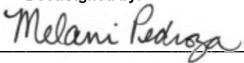
Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

7E1C273CE9994B6...
Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

Certificate Of Completion

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Signer Events

Claudia Balducci
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 King County General (ITD)
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

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Melani Pedroza
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 Clerk of the Council
 King County Council
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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