

KING COUNTY

Signature Report

Motion 16173

Proposed No. 2022-0001.3 **Sponsors** Dunn, Kohl-Welles and Perry 1 A MOTION declaring fentanyl-related overdoses a public 2 health crisis and requesting the executive to identify 3 strategies and recommendations regarding the county's 4 public health response. 5 WHEREAS, over the past two decades the United States has experienced a 6 growing crisis in opioid-related overdose deaths, and 7 WHEREAS, during that time, the annual number of overdose deaths in the United 8 States has more than quadrupled from approximately seventeen thousand five hundred in 9 2000 to more than eighty-one thousand in 2020, and 10 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 2020 11 marked the highest number of overdose deaths ever reported in one year, and 12 WHEREAS, while overdose deaths were already increasing in the months 13 preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, the latest numbers suggest an acceleration of 14 overdose deaths during the pandemic, and 15 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also reports that 16 illicitly manufactured fentanyl appears to be the primary driver of increases in overdose 17 deaths, and 18 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently published a report showing the economic cost of fatal opioid overdoses in 2017 totaled eight billion 19

20	five hundred million dollars in Washington state and more than five hundred fifty billion	
21	dollars nationwide, and	
22	WHEREAS, fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the Food and	
23	Drug Administration for use as an analgesic and anesthetic that is approximately fifty	
24	times more potent than heroin and one hundred times more potent than morphine, and	
25	WHEREAS, the Drug Enforcement Agency reported in 2020 that the increase in	
26	trafficking, distribution and abuse of illicitly produced fentanyl is primarily responsible	
27	for fueling the record-level overdose deaths observed nationwide, and	
28	WHEREAS, between 2018 and 2020, fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased	
29	one hundred sixty-four percent in King County, and	
30	WHEREAS, three hundred ninety-six fentanyl-involved fatal overdoses have	
31	occurred in King County in 2021, which is a one hundred thirty-three percent increase	
32	from 2020 and a two hundred sixty percent increase from 2019, and sets a new record for	
33	fentanyl-related deaths in King County in a single year; and	
34	WHEREAS, as of June 7, 2022, two-hundred forty-nine fentanyl-involved fatal	
35	overdoses have occurred in King County in 2022, an additional forty-four percent	
36	increase over the same period last year; and	
37	WHEREAS, approximately half of all overdose-related deaths in 2021 as of	
38	December 16 involved fentanyl;	
39	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:	
40	A. The council declares the widespread distribution of fentanyl and fentanyl-	
41	related overdoses, including fatal and non-fatal overdoses, a public health crisis.	

42	B. The council requests the executive to work with public health - Seattle & King
43	County to:
44	1. Identify, in consultation with public health - Seattle & King County and the
45	King County department of community and human services, existing strategies and
46	resources to reduce fentanyl-involved overdoses; and
47	2. Make recommendations to increase King County's public health response

- 48 regarding fentanyl-involved overdoses, including areas that King County could further
- 49 invest in to prevent fentanyl-involved overdoses.

Motion 16173 was introduced on 1/11/2022 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/19/2022, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

Excused: 1 - Upthegrove

KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Claudia Balduci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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Claudia Balducci

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Council Chair

King County General (ITD)

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King County Council

Melani Pedroza

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