



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16219

Proposed No. 2022-0241.3

Sponsors Dunn, Perry and Zahilay

1 A MOTION requesting the executive to identify resources
2 to support food banks and food security organizations
3 experiencing the impacts of inflation.

4 WHEREAS, from 2018 through 2020, Communities Count reported that about
5 10.5 percent of adults in King County reported that food that was bought for their
6 households sometimes or often did not last, and they did not have money to purchase
7 more food, and

8 WHEREAS, lack of adequate food can affect physical and mental health, and
9 children who grow up in homes without enough food are at increased risk of illness and
10 academic and social problems, and

11 WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ("the BLS") reported that the
12 consumer price index for all urban consumers rose 9.1 percent from April 2021 to April
13 2022, and

14 WHEREAS, during the same period, the BLS reported that food prices increased
15 11.4 percent, led by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish and eggs, and

16 WHEREAS, the Seattle Times reported on May 27, 2022, that food banks are
17 experiencing increased operating costs due to inflation at the same time that demand is
18 increasing as food costs rise for households, and

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19 WHEREAS, on June 15, 2022, the United State Federal Reserve raised its key
20 short term interest rate by three-quarters of a percentage point, its largest hike in twenty-
21 eight years, impacting credit card, mortgages, savings rates, and stocks, and

22 WHEREAS, public health - Seattle & King County has granted five million
23 dollars to seventy-four food banks in 2022, and

24 WHEREAS, moneys are not currently available for further food bank support,
25 and

26 WHEREAS, some strategies to support food banks could include, but are not
27 limited to:

28 1. Helping to influence the federal government to reauthorize federal benefits,
29 such as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") and other programs
30 in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, which is set to expire on September 30,
31 2023;

32 2. Directing more resources towards food security organizations, especially
33 smaller and nontraditional food providers, such as churches and senior centers;

34 3. Helping to create a unified food security network by building connectivity
35 and relationships between food security organizations around the region;

36 4. Helping individuals access other resources, such as rental assistance, job
37 assistance and transit benefits, at food banks; and

38 5. Investing in and building the capacity of food banks to also perform federal
39 benefits outreach, as every dollar invested in SNAP outreach yields local benefits beyond
40 the direct federal assistance;

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

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42 A. The council requests the executive to identify resources to support food banks
43 and food security organizations, including, but not limited to, senior centers, experiencing
44 the impacts of inflation. The executive should conduct outreach to food banks and food
45 security organizations, including, but not limited to, senior centers, and other agencies
46 involved in the food network, such as Nourishing Networks, in King County to identify
47 needs and determine the magnitude of food insecurity in King County. In conducting
48 outreach, the executive should identify ways to provide assistance to food banks and food
49 security organizations, including, but not limited to, senior centers, such as, but not
50 limited to, grants and volunteer outreach and recruitment, and outreach should be
51 conducted with at least one organization located in each council district, if possible, and
52 serving a variety of cultural and socioeconomic groups. The executive should begin
53 implementation of any assistance measures upon completion of the outreach.

54 B. The executive should also identify any geographic locations in King County,
55 including, but not limited to, any areas in rural or unincorporated King County, that are
56 underserved by the existing network of food banks and food security organizations.

57 C. The executive should report to the council on the outreach conducted, the
58 magnitude of food insecurity in King County, any identified ways to assist food banks
59 and food security organizations, including, but not limited to, senior centers, and results
60 of implementation of any assistance measures, and any geographic locations identified
61 that are underserved by the existing network of food banks and food security
62 organizations. The executive should electronically file the report not later than February
63 7, 2023, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an

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- 64 electronic copy to all councilmembers and the lead staff of the law, justice, health and
65 human services committee, or its successor.

Motion 16219 was introduced on 6/21/2022 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/27/2022, by the following vote:

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Claudia Balducci

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Pedroza

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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Council Chair

King County General (ITD)

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Clerk of the Council

King County Council

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