## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 13 | **Name:** | Leah Krekel-Zoppi |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2018-0557 | **Date:** | December 5, 2018 |

**SUBJECT**

A motion nominating Vashon Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness as an in-need organization, qualifying them for discounted Washington State Ferry tickets.

**SUMMARY**

The Washington Administrative Code[[1]](#footnote-1) allows “in-need” organizations to receive discounted rates for transportation on Washington State Ferries. To receive the designation as “in-need,” an organization must complete an application and be nominated by the local body that appoints State Ferry Advisory Committees. By State law,[[2]](#footnote-2) the King County Council is responsible for appointing Ferry Advisory Committee members for each ferry terminal area in the county. As a result, the King County Council is the appropriate body to nominate an organization in King County for “in-need” status for discounted ferry fares.

Vashon Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness (VICPH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Vashon. VICPH serves people who are homeless or are risk of becoming homeless, including providing help with transportation costs for low-income individuals. VICPH meets the criteria for an “in-need” organization, as it is a not-for-profit organization that provides low-income social services to its clients.

VICPH has submitted an application to receive reduced rate ferry fares. Proposed Motion 2018-0557 would nominate VICPH as an “in-need” organization to Washington State Ferries.

**BACKGROUND**

**In-need Organizations.** The Washington Administrative Code provides a mechanism for qualified organizations to receive discounted Washington State Ferry rates. This mechanism is to designate an organization as “in-need.”

The Washington Administrative Code describes the nominating process and the requirements to be designated “in-need”:

For qualified organizations serving in-need clients by providing tickets for transportation on WSF at no cost to clients, program would offer a monthly discount to approximate appropriate multiride media discount rates.

Appointing bodies (those that appoint Ferry Advisory Committees) will nominate to the Washington State Transportation Commission those organizations that meet the criteria of the program. The Commission will review such nominations and certify those organizations that qualify.

The following criteria will be used for nominating and certifying in-need organizations: Nongovernmental and not-for-profit organizations whose primary purpose is one or more of the following: Help clients with medical issues; provide clients with low-income social services; help clients suffering from domestic violence; provide clients with employment-seeking services; and/or help clients with Social Security. Travel will be initially charged based on full fare and billed monthly. The credits will be approximately based on the discount rates offered to multiride media users applicable on the date of travel. [[3]](#footnote-3)

**Appointing Body.** The Washington Administrative Code designates the appointing body to nominate an organization for “in-need” status as “those that appoint Ferry Advisory Committees.”

Ferry Advisory Committee appointments are covered by State law, which provides special processes for San Juan, Skagit, Clallam, and Jefferson counties, and then notes that:

The legislative authorities of other counties that contain ferry terminals shall appoint ferry advisory committees consisting of three members for each terminal area in each county, except for Vashon Island, which shall have one committee, and its members shall be appointed by the Vashon/Maury Island community council. If the Vashon/Maury Island community council fails to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy within ninety days of the occurrence of the vacancy, the legislative authority of King county shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The King County Council, as King County’s legislative authority, is thus the appointing body for Ferry Advisory Committees within King County. As the appointing body, the Council holds the responsibility for nominating organizations for “in-need” status.

**VICPH**

VICPH is based in Vashon. Its mission is to identify and respond to the needs of those who are homeless or are risk of becoming homeless.

VICPH submitted an application to the Washington State Ferries seeking nomination as an “in-need” organization so that it could purchase discounted ferry tickets to allow approximately 90 clients to use the Vashon/Fauntleroy and Vashon/Point Defiance ferries. The application was forwarded on to the King County Council for review and action. If approved, the Council’s nomination would be sent to the Washington State Transportation Commission and copied to Washington State Ferries.

**ANALYSIS**

VICPH meets the criteria outlined in the Washington Administrative Code to be classified as an “in-need” organization for the purpose of receiving discounted ferry fares for its clients. VICPH has submitted an application that was received by the King County Council, which is the appropriate nominating body.

The Council’s approval of the proposed legislation would nominate VICPH for this status and move its application to the next stage of the process.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2018-0557
2. Vashon Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness application
1. WAC 468-300-010 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. RCW 47.60.310 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. WAC 468-300-010 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. RCW 47.60.310 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)