



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15685

Proposed No. 2020-0286.1

Sponsors Upthegrove, Dembowski and Balducci

1 A MOTION reaffirming the King County council's support
2 of unbanked money transfer operators and the immigrant
3 communities they serve.

4 WHEREAS, money transfer operators ("MTOs") in King County, and across the
5 United States, have been unable to secure bank accounts due to a process referred to as
6 "bank derisking," and

7 WHEREAS, a recent string of armed robberies on those unbanked MTOs in
8 SeaTac, Seattle and surrounding cities has turned the issue into a public safety concern,
9 and

10 WHEREAS, East African immigrant communities in King County rely on those
11 MTOs to send money to their loved ones abroad. Funding from remittances accounts for
12 basic needs including food, water, shelter and education, and

13 WHEREAS, over the past few years, those MTOs have found it increasingly
14 difficult to operate without bank accounts. Many have shut down, and the ones that
15 remain transport millions of dollars in cash through SeaTac Airport each month, and

16 WHEREAS, those MTOs: provide culturally specific services; deliver money to
17 remote regions not served by the large operators, including refugee camps in East Africa;
18 provide good paying jobs; contribute to community activities; and are a valuable
19 members of King County's small-business community, and

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20 WHEREAS, King County has one of the largest African communities in the
21 United States; nearly 51,000 people from sub-Saharan Africa are residents in King
22 County, and

23 WHEREAS, the vast majority of our East African residents are refugees and our
24 new residents need effective systems that will support them in staying connected to their
25 loved ones back home, and

26 WHEREAS, East Africans are critical to King County's economic vitality because
27 they purchase goods and services and run small businesses, which in turn create jobs and
28 generate revenue for the region, and

29 WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals participants and religious
30 institutions, such as mosques, also struggle to secure reliable banking services, and

31 WHEREAS, it is in King County's interest to promote financial inclusion and
32 public safety, and

33 WHEREAS, the state of Washington has jurisdiction over state-licensed banks,
34 and

35 WHEREAS, the state of Washington has the authority to pass laws and develop
36 processes that promote financial inclusion and public safety;

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

38 A. The council reaffirms its support of our East African community in their
39 desires to support their loved ones, and also reaffirms the right of MTOs to engage in
40 lawful commerce in a safe manner.

41 B. The council calls on the Washington state Senate Financial Institutions,
42 Economic Development and Trade Committee and the Washington state House of

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43 Representatives Consumer Protection and Business Committee to study the issue of bank
44 derisking and to find a solution that promotes financial inclusion and public safety for
45 immigrant communities throughout the state.

46 C. The council directs its government relations team to reach out to the state of

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47 Washington and the Washington state Legislature to explore actions they can take to
48 promote financial inclusion for King County residents and businesses.
49

Motion 15685 was introduced on 9/1/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/29/2020, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Upthegrove, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:
Claudia Balducci
F8830816F1C4427...

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Melani Pedroza
8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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Claudia Balducci
 claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov
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Melani Pedroza
 melani.pedroza@kingcounty.gov
 Clerk of the Council
 King County Council
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Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Certified Delivered	Security Checked	10/6/2020 10:53:35 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	10/6/2020 10:53:41 AM
Completed	Security Checked	10/6/2020 10:53:41 AM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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Required hardware and software

Operating Systems:	Windows® 2000, Windows® XP, Windows Vista®; Mac OS® X
Browsers:	Final release versions of Internet Explorer® 6.0 or above (Windows only); Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or above (Windows and Mac); Safari™ 3.0 or above (Mac only)
PDF Reader:	Acrobat® or similar software may be required to view and print PDF files
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum

Enabled Security Settings:	Allow per session cookies
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