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KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse 516 Third Avenue Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15807

	Proposed No. 2021-0086.2Sponsors Kohl-Welles, Dembowski, Dunn, Zahilay and Upthegrove		
1	A MOTION condemning the preferential access to		
2	COVID-19 vaccinations for hospital donors and calling on		
3	the state Legislature to take action prohibiting such actions.		
4	WHEREAS, as of February 1, 2021, there have been 77,017 positive cases of		
5	COVID-19 and 1,264 deaths in King County, and		
6	WHEREAS, as of February 1, 2021, there have been 293,250 COVID-19 vaccine		
7	doses allocated across King County, approximately 250,063 of which have been		
8	administered, and		
9	WHEREAS, at the metropolitan King County council meeting on January 12,		
10	2021, public health-Seattle & King County director Patty Hayes expressed the unified		
11	goal to efficiently and equitably vaccinate as many King County residents as possible,		
12	and		
13	WHEREAS, the federal government has announced that it will send an initial		
14	shipment of one million doses directly to 6,500 pharmacy stores across the country		
15	beginning on February 11, 2021, and		
16	WHEREAS, as of January 18, 2021, all older adults in Washington state over the		
17	age of 65, and some people age 50 and older who are living in multigenerational		
18	households, are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and		
19	WHEREAS, many seniors and vulnerable populations throughout the county are		

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struggling to access and navigate the current public health landscape in order to sign up
for and receive COVID-19 vaccines, and
WHEREAS, the digital divide and mobility access continue to wreak havoc on
many low-income seniors, Black, Indigenous and People of Color ("BIOPOC") and
vulnerable populations with disabilities and who are unhoused, making it difficult to sign
up to receive a vaccine or travel to an appropriate vaccination site, and
WHEREAS, BIPOC, immigrant and senior communities, and essential workers
have been hit the hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, and
WHEREAS, centuries of systemic racism have led some in the BIPOC
communities to be distrustful of vaccinations administered by the government, and
WHEREAS, trust and positive public perception of the state, county and local
rollout of vaccines is critical to ensure the rapid and effective deployment of vaccines
throughout our region, and
WHEREAS, it was reported in the Seattle Times and other media outlets that
three medical systems in our county gave preferential treatment and special access to
COVID-19 vaccinations to financial donors and board members, and
WHEREAS, providing vaccines to nonpriority populations and those with
financial influence is unethical, inequitable and prevents our most vulnerable
communities from being vaccinated and betrays the equity and social justice values of
King County government, and
WHEREAS, these unethical actions are in complete contrast to the Hippocratic
Oath to do no harm, and
WHEREAS, in order to end this pandemic as soon as possible in King County,

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43	local and state governments must ensure that the most-marginalized communities and
44	frontline essential workers are prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccine instead of wealthy
45	donors to organizations and businesses;
46	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
47	A. The council strongly condemns the actions of those hospitals and businesses
48	that have given preferential treatment to high-profile donors, board members and family
49	and friends, allowing them to receive COVID-19 vaccinations before more-vulnerable
50	priority populations.
51	B. The council recognizes that preferential treatment by medical systems in our
52	region leads to distrust and inhibits priority populations from receiving the COVID-19
53	vaccine equitably.
54	C. The council calls on Washington Governor Jay Inslee to issue an executive
55	order immediately prohibiting special access to vaccinations and requiring COVID-19
56	vaccines be distributed equitably in Washington state.
57	D. The council calls on the Washington state Legislature to take action in the
58	2021 legislative session to prohibit medical systems from distributing vaccines
59	inequitably by, for example, giving preferential access to donors or board members.
60	E. The council calls on the Washington state Department of Health to allocate

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- 61 vaccines equitably to serve populations at higher risk, including low-income communities
- 62 of color.

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Motion 15807 was introduced on 2/2/2021 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/9/2021, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Mr. Upthegrove, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Zahilay No: 2 - Ms. Lambert and Mr. McDermott

> KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by: Ilandia Balducci 7E1C273CE9994B6

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST: -DocuSigned by: Melani Kedros 8DE188375AD3422.

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None



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Melani Pedroza melani.pedroza@kingcounty.gov Clerk of the Council King County Council Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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