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2 AN ORDINANCE relating to the development of a youth
3 action plan that sets King County's priorities for serving
4 infants through young adults.

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6 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

7 1. Since the 1960s, King County has participated in and funded programs
8 aimed at assisting children and young adults. This work includes but is not
9 limited to federal fund distribution, as well as local programming and
10 funding.

11 2. Today, King County spends over seventy-five million dollars annually
12 on a wide range of programs that influence children and youth at all stages
13 of development from birth to young adult. These services and programs
14 for youth and children are provided across King County government by
15 several departments and agencies. While most of these programs may be
16 successful individually, it is not clear whether they operate at a scale or
17 collaboratively to make a difference in improving overall outcomes for
18 infants, children, youth and young adults. There is no single point of
19 accountability or unified policy vision for coordinating the county's wide
20 array of children and youth services or programs.

21 3. King County's various departments and agencies contract with dozens
22 of community-based organizations and local nonprofit organizations that
23 work in collaboration with each other, the county and other governments

24 to serve children, youth and their families. The community-based
25 organizations and local nonprofit organizations include: geographically
26 focused organizations; organizations focused on serving specific cultural
27 and ethnic populations; organizations serving gay, lesbian and transgender
28 youth and young adults; and organizations targeting justice-involved or at-
29 risk youth.

30 4. King County has adopted policies to directly guide or substantially
31 influence services and programs aimed at the children and youth
32 population such as the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan, the
33 Human Services Framework Policies and the Strategic Plan.

34 5. In 1992 King County established the children and family commission,
35 to define King County's mission, role and goals in provision of services to
36 children, youth and families. Ordinance 13811, adopted in 2000, further
37 defined the role and duties of the commission, noting that the commission
38 acted in an advisory capacity to the county executive, superior court and
39 the county council. The children and family commission was defunded
40 and dismantled in 2011, due in part to declining revenues and the county's
41 constrained fiscal environment.

42 6. The absence of the children and family commission has left a
43 significant gap in advising the executive, superior court and the county
44 council on matters related to children, youth, and families, especially as
45 related to building linkages between the county's service systems,
46 communities and schools. In a 2011 letter, the exiting commission

47 members stated that they were "deeply concerned with the county's lack of
48 transparency and accountability," especially around decision making
49 involving revenue historically supporting the work, outcomes and reports
50 of the children and family commission.

51 7. King County government has been developing and implementing a
52 performance and accountability system that focuses on results. The
53 purpose of this system is to improve King County government's ability to
54 measure how it is operating and performing, plan for the future and report
55 on its performance across all of the services delivered to citizens.

56 8. A cornerstone of that performance and accountability system is the
57 county's Strategic Plan, adopted by the council in July 2010 via Ordinance
58 16897. The plan calls for improved customer service, greater efficiency in
59 government and more robust partnerships across the region.

60 9. The King County Strategic Plan states that it embodies the priorities of
61 the residents of King County and the values of all of the separately-elected
62 officials in King County government. It furthers states that the purpose of
63 the Action plan is to guide decisions in times of fiscal challenge, as well as
64 in future prosperity. The plan also represents King County government's
65 commitment to deliver county services that meet and exceed the standards
66 of professionalism, efficiency, quality and customer service as appropriate
67 to the current funding and policy environment.

68 10. The Strategic Plan contains specific goals related to the county's
69 functions and lines of business. For health and human services-related

70 areas, a health and human potential goal was established to "promote
71 opportunities for all communities and individuals to realize their full
72 potential."

73 11. Led by the committee to end homelessness, King County has been
74 actively working with a wide array of stakeholders, including nonprofit
75 community agencies, government leaders, private philanthropy and
76 homeless and formerly homeless young people, on a homeless youth and
77 young adult initiative. The purpose of the community-wide initiative is to
78 prevent and reduce youth and young adult homelessness in the county.

79 12. In November 2012, the council passed Motion 13768 requesting the
80 executive, in collaboration with the departments of public health and
81 community and human services and a community stakeholder panel
82 informed by local and national expertise, to develop and submit a plan for
83 council review and approval for an accountable and integrated system of
84 health, human services and community-based prevention in King County.

85 13. In January 2013, the executive convened a thirty-member community
86 stakeholder panel, referred to in this ordinance as "the health and human
87 services transformation panel," that included representatives from the
88 healthcare, human services and prevention sectors, the business
89 community, the geographic subregions of King County and local and
90 national experts in system transformation and innovation. The health and
91 human services transformation panel met between February and May 2013
92 to advise staff on key design elements of the transformation plan.

93 14. On June 26, 2013, the executive transmitted the requested
94 transformation plan. It recognizes various populations and diversity of
95 those in need of services throughout the county. The transformation plan
96 is individual, family and community centered, and takes a whole-person
97 approach where the preferences, strengths, needs and goals of individuals
98 and families come first. The transformation plan includes integration
99 efforts and interventions that occur at two levels: the individual and
100 family level, which assures that individuals and families can access an
101 array of person-centered, integrated, culturally competent services; and the
102 community level, which creates community-level improvements because
103 health is most deeply influenced by where people live, work, learn and
104 play. The transformation plan establishes a path to achieve an outcome-
105 driven system where providers, consumers, funders and policy makers are
106 called to work together collectively and are mutually accountable through
107 contracts and compacts that include shared priorities, strategies and
108 measurements for assuring health and human service outcomes.

109 15. On June 19, 2013, King County council's committee of the whole
110 received a briefing entitled "implementation of the action plan goals,"
111 where the executive outlined priorities related to specific goals of the
112 action plan. In that briefing, the executive identified a number of priorities
113 for 2015-2019 related to the health and human potential goal area.

114 16. In that briefing, the executive also stated that King County will
115 develop a youth agenda that defines outcomes, priorities, and actions for

116 pursuing the proposed vision that all infants reach adulthood healthy and
117 safe, academically or vocationally succeeding and socially and civically
118 engaged.

119 17. There is a need to provide continuing direction regarding the
120 development and implementation of a youth action plan to ensure that the
121 county's existing adopted policy goals, as included in the Juvenile Justice
122 Operational Master Plan, Human Services Framework Policy, Equity and
123 Social Justice Initiative and Strategic Plan, are reflected throughout the
124 process and that work undertaken by the county, such as the homeless
125 youth and young adult initiative and the health and human services
126 transformation plan, are taken into consideration. The development and
127 implementation of the youth action plan needs to be accomplished
128 transparently, collaboratively and strategically, in partnership with
129 children and youth serving community providers, consumers,
130 philanthropy, separately elected officials including the council, other
131 jurisdictions and school districts.

132 18. It is the policy of the county that citizens and policy makers be able to
133 measure the effectiveness of the investment of public funds.

134 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

135 SECTION 1. There is hereby created a youth action plan task force that will
136 develop a youth action plan. The task force shall be composed one representative from
137 each of the following:

138 1. The King County Youth and Family Service Associations;

- 139 2. A provider of youth homeless services;
- 140 3. A provider of before and after school care and youth recreation services;
- 141 4. A provider of culturally specific children, youth and family services;
- 142 5. A children and youth justice organization;
- 143 6. An organization serving gay, lesbian and transgender youth;
- 144 7. A provider of both mental health and chemical dependency services to
- 145 children and youth;
- 146 8. An organization serving foster youth;
- 147 9. A provider or expert on early childhood learning and/or development;
- 148 10. A youth focused philanthropic organization
- 149 11. The city of Seattle;
- 150 12. The city of Bellevue;
- 151 13. The Sound Cities Association;
- 152 14. Puget Sound Educational Service District;
- 153 15. King County systems integration initiative, which is an ongoing work group
- 154 established by the executive for addressing juvenile justice matters;
- 155 16. The executive;
- 156 17. The council;
- 157 18. Superior court;
- 158 19. The sheriff;
- 159 20. The department of adult and juvenile detention;
- 160 21. The department of natural resources and parks;
- 161 22. The prosecuting attorney;

23. The department of public defense;
24. Public Health – Seattle and King County;
25. The department of community and human services;
26. The Committee to End Homelessness in King County; and
27. The department of judicial administration.

SECTION 2. The members of the task force shall be appointed by the executive and submitted to the council with a motion for confirmation no later than November 14, 2013.

SECTION 3. The executive shall ensure that the youth action plan is developed with input from the departments of community and human services, public health, adult and juvenile detention, judicial administration, natural resources and parks and public defense. In the process of youth strategic development and revision, the task force shall also consult with boards and commissions that address matters involving children, youth and families, including the mental illness and drug dependency oversight committee, the committee to end homelessness and the veterans and human services levy citizen oversight boards.

SECTION 4. A. The task force shall make recommendations to the executive and the council in a youth action plan that shall be submitted to the council by September 4, 2014. The youth action plan shall contain recommendations on the following matters and the rationale for each recommendation shall be detailed and included in the youth action plan:

1. Identification of the mission and vision of the youth action plan, and whether the executive's stated vision of "infants reach adulthood healthy and safe, academically or

vocationally succeeding, and socially and civically engaged" reflects the
recommendations of the task force;

2. A bill of rights for King County's youth akin to the youth bills of rights that
many jurisdictions in California and elsewhere around the country have adopted;

3. Whether King County should establish a single point of accountability for
children and youth services, programs and policy in the county and what model or
structure that point of accountability should take, such as a special advisor, an office or
department, a board or commission and/or some other form;

4. Recommendations regarding the role and duties of a special advisor, office or
department or board or commission, with special attention paid to the role that the special
advisor, office or department, or board or commission or other form, would have with
respect to the health and human services transformation plan activities. The
recommendations shall also address whether the special advisor, office or department, or
board or commission or other form, would be time-limited or ongoing;

5. Identification of what age range the proposed youth action plan will address
and/or serve, and whether families are included in the youth action plan;

6. Identification of improvements, efficiencies and areas for integration or
coordination, or both, of services, programs and policies for children and youth within
and outside of King County government;

7. Identification of the barriers within and outside of King County government
that prevent children, youth and families from realizing their full potential and
recommendations on how the county might proceed eliminating those barriers;

207 8. Identification of specific outcomes that the proposed youth action plan will
208 call for that enable furtherance of the county's Strategic Plan and social justice and equity
209 goals;

210 9. Identification of the children, youth and family programs, methodologies and
211 service models that the county should prioritize to achieve outcomes and meet policy
212 goals;

213 10. Recommendation on the county's funding of services and programs for
214 youth, including the prioritization of existing and potential new resources to achieve
215 recommended outcomes; and

216 11. Identification of an evaluation and reporting structure, process and
217 implementation timeline for the youth action plan.

218 B. The youth action plan required in subsection A. of this section shall be filed
219 with the clerk of the copy in the form of a paper and an electronic copy with the clerk of
220 the council, who shall retain the paper copy and forward an electronic copy to all
221 councilmembers.

222 SECTION 5. The task force shall conduct community, stakeholder and consumer
223 information meetings throughout the development of the recommendations and proposed
224 youth action plan in order to keep interested parties informed and up-to-date on the work
225 of the task force.