



King County

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, King County is the center of an innovative, prosperous region that embraces pluralism and diversity and is determined to move forward and look outward to the rest of the world as we build a welcoming community, a strong economy, and a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, King County remains committed to providing public safety, health, and other services to all residents, irrespective of immigration status, and has enacted into law protections to ensure that county employees honor this commitment in their day-to-day work; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the King County Council approved Ordinance 16692, which prohibits the King County Sheriff's Office and the Public Health Department from conditioning provision of services on the immigration status of any individual and, in 2014, approved Ordinance 17886, providing that the County honor U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers only if they are accompanied by a criminal warrant issued by a federal judge or magistrate; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, King County joined over 60 local governments around the nation to become a Welcoming Community that embraces new residents and recognizes that immigration of people to King County from many parts of the world makes us a stronger, more prosperous region; and

WHEREAS, King County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan guides our policy direction and decision-making, operations and services, and our workplace practices in order to advance equity and social justice within County government and in partnership with communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the King County Executive and King County Council joined together to create the Immigrant and Refugee Commission to serve as a hub for policies, services and dialogue among elected leaders, community organizations and county employees; and

WHEREAS, given this moment of national change and transition, the people and the government of King County reaffirm our commitment to being a just, inclusive region where all have the chance to achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, King County will continue to welcome people from around the world and the nation who seek refuge from political and economic tumult, to build a secure future for themselves and their families, and to participate in building a prosperous, equitable community for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dow Constantine, King County Executive, do hereby proclaim King County to be:

A Welcoming Community

I urge all our residents to set an example of inclusiveness and equality for the nation to follow.



Dow Constantine
King County Executive