



# Metropolitan King County Council

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## PROCLAMATION

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WHEREAS, King County lies upon the homelands, territories, and villages of the Indigenous peoples of the Puget Sound region who have occupied these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, King County recognizes the impacts of systematic racism on Indigenous people in the United States and the colonization that has led to high rates of poverty, and the resulting disproportionate life outcomes; and

WHEREAS, King County is committed to pursuing policies and practices that will aid in closing the equity gaps, honoring our nation's Indigenous roots and history, ensuring greater access and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, King County values the many contributions made by Indigenous peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, and arts, as well as the cultural contributions that have substantially shaped the character of Seattle and King County; and

WHEREAS, American Indian Heritage Month was first proposed in 1990 by U.S. House Joint Resolution 577 (Pub. L. 101-343) and in 1991 by Congress Senate Joint Resolution 172 (Pub. L. 102-123); and

WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush issued in 1991 Proclamation 6368 proclaiming November as "Native American Heritage Month"; and

WHEREAS, in King County, we honor the unique government-to-government relationship that exists between Indian tribes and County Government, and that relationship has weathered various challenges and changes over the years, evolving into a partnership by which we can work productively together; and

WHEREAS, during Native American Heritage Month, we reaffirm our commitment to work to promote the well-being and celebrate the history and cultures of our local and regional American Indian, Alaska Native, and Indigenous communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council and the King County Executive, proclaim the month of November 2020 as

### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in King County and encourage all residents to learn about and embrace the historical truths and cultures of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Indigenous Peoples and respect their many contributions.

DATED this tenth day of November, 2020.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Rod Dembowski, District One

Kathy Lambert, District Three

Dave Upthegrove, District Five

Joe McDermott, District Eight, Council Vice Chair

Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair

Girmay Zahilay, District Two

Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four

Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven

Reagan Dunn, District Nine, Council Vice Chair