



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 19, 2018

Resolution 18-06

Proposed No. 18-06.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION supporting efforts for sanitation and
2 hygiene infrastructure for homeless and unsheltered
3 populations.

4 WHEREAS, insufficient shelter, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure can lead to
5 the spread of infectious diseases, and

6 WHEREAS, diseases associated with hepatitis A or diarrhea can be transmitted
7 through ingestion of food or water that has been contaminated with the feces of an
8 infected person, and

9 WHEREAS, diseases can be transmitted between those who do not have access to
10 clean water and hygiene facilities including unsheltered individuals and other vulnerable
11 populations in Seattle and King County, and

12 WHEREAS, exposure to and consumption of contaminated food and water can
13 infect persons both sheltered and unsheltered, and

14 WHEREAS, the 2017 Point-in-Time Count counted 11,643 people experiencing
15 homelessness in Seattle and King County, with 5,485 individuals experiencing
16 unsheltered homelessness in abandoned buildings, vehicles and tents, and living on the
17 street, and

18 WHEREAS, enhanced shelters with lower barriers serve more individuals who
19 have higher behavioral health needs and housing barriers than basic shelter, and can

20 provide hygiene services during extended or daytime hours, and

21 WHEREAS, unsheltered homeless individuals in the absence of appropriate and
22 available shelter and hygiene services disproportionately face adverse effects of public
23 health risks associated with sleeping outside and infrequent showering and laundering
24 clothing, such as body lice, fleas, head lice, scabies and other ectoparasite infestations
25 and bacterial skin infections, and

26 WHEREAS, sleeping outside and irregular showering and clothing laundering are
27 known risk factors for the increased prevalence of scabies and body lice, and body lice
28 can transmit vector-borne infectious agents that pose serious, long term health
29 consequences for adults, and

30 WHEREAS, reduced hygiene is a risk factor for bacterial skin infections,
31 including methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (known as MRSA) and Group A
32 streptococcal infection, that are transmitted in crowded environments through close
33 personal contact, particularly among vulnerable populations such as the urban poor,
34 injection drug users and other marginalized persons, and

35 WHEREAS, King County is experiencing a Group A streptococcal infection
36 outbreak that is particularly affecting those experiencing homelessness and injection drug
37 users, and

38 WHEREAS, additional hygiene resources for people who are homeless are
39 needed in all cities and unincorporated areas across King County, and

40 WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County works to protect and improve
41 the health and well-being of all people in King County and reduce the spread of diseases;

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King

43 County:

44 A. The Board of Health supports the implementation of a system for sanitation
45 and hygiene infrastructure for homeless and unsheltered populations and calls upon
46 governments and service providers to add publicly accessible hygiene facilities in cities
47 and unincorporated areas across King County.

48 B. The Board of Health supports and promotes additional investments by
49 governments and service providers in handwashing, toilet and shower facilities for people

50 who are experiencing homelessness as well as facilities available to the public at large in
51 cities and unincorporated areas across King County.
52

Resolution 18-06 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 3/15/2018,
by the following vote:

Yes: 12 Dr. Danielson, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr. McDermott, Mr.
Dembowski, Dr. Daniell, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Juarez, Ms. Birney
and Ms. Mosqueda

No: 0

Excused: 2 - Ms. Lambert and Ms. Honda

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None