RESOLUTION R-5270

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND SUPPORTING KING COUNTY PROPOSITION NO. 1, LEVY LID LIFT FOR VETERANS, SENIORS AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2017, voters in King County will decide whether to approve King County Proposition No. 1, Levy Lid Lift For Veterans, Seniors And Vulnerable Populations; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 a Veterans and Human Services Levy passed in King County with a nearly fifty-eight percent approval rate, generating much needed funding to help veterans, military personnel and their families and other individuals and families in need across the county through a variety of regional health and human services; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 a renewal of the Veterans and Human Services Levy passed in King County with a nearly sixty-nine percent approval rate and has since served more than one hundred and eighty-three thousand clients, more than thirty thousand of whom have been veterans, military personnel or their families; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans and Human Services Levy has demonstrated accomplishments towards its goals of reducing homelessness, reducing emergency medical and criminal justice involvement, and increasing self-sufficiency for veterans, military personnel, their families and other individuals and families in need; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, the Veterans and Human Services Levy has met these policy goals through a broad array of successful services and programs; and

WHEREAS, the current Veterans and Human Services Levy will expire at the end of 2017 and its importance to maintaining basic health and human services for King County's veterans and vulnerable populations merits continuation; and

WHEREAS, the need for veterans and human services remains high, with approximately one hundred and twelve thousand veterans living in King County and a disproportionate number of veterans experiencing poverty and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, King County has a growing senior population, with eighteen percent of King County residents aged sixty or older, a number that will increase to twenty-five percent of the county population by 2040; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable seniors face increasing challenges related to chronic health conditions, poverty, social isolation, elder abuse, and the ability to age in place, while funding is not keeping pace with the needs; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of persons or communities in King County continue to be susceptible to reduced health, housing, financial or social stability outcomes because of current experience of or historical exposure to trauma, violence, poverty, isolation, bias, racism, stigma, discrimination, disability, or chronic illness; and

WHEREAS, given the positive outcomes of the Veterans and Human Services Levy on the lives of veterans, military personnel, their families and other individuals and families in need, and the projected need for sustained veterans and human services funding in the future, it is appropriate to ask the voters to renew and replace the Veterans and Human Services Levy by enhancing the funding generated and adding senior services to those programs eligible to be funded; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State law, RCW 42.17A.555, the City Council of Kirkland desires to show its support for King County Proposition No. 1, Levy Lid Lift For Veterans, Seniors And Vulnerable Populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

<u>Section 1</u>. The City Council hereby supports King County Proposition No. 1, Levy Lid Lift for Veterans, Seniors and Vulnerable Populations.

<u>Section 2</u>. The City Council urges Kirkland voters to support the Levy Lid Lift for Veterans, Seniors and Vulnerable Populations ballot measure to ensure continued programs and services to benefit our community and our quality of life.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 19th day of September, 2017.

Signed in authentication thereof this 19th day of September, 2017.

Amy Walen, Mayor

Attest:

Kathi Anderson, City Clerk