

RESOLUTION R-5630

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND ADOPTING AN ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

1 WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017, the City Council adopted
2 Resolution R-5240 declaring Kirkland a safe, inclusive, and welcoming
3 community for all people; and
4

5 WHEREAS, as stated in R-5240, the City is committed to
6 protecting and serving all those who live in, work in, or visit Kirkland
7 without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender identity,
8 age, income or economic status, political affiliation, veteran or military
9 status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability; and
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11 WHEREAS, the City condemns atrocities, violence and
12 aggression and rejects any form of hate, bias, discrimination, and
13 oppression; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Council has worked to demonstrate a deliberate
16 and intentional effort to cultivate a community where everyone belongs
17 through its adoption of Resolution R-5548, approving the Diversity,
18 Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Roadmap in July 2023, which
19 contains many objectives for the City to undertake to uphold its values
20 of equity and belonging; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the City has been periodically presented with
23 requests from community members for statements supporting a
24 particular side or condemning a particular party relating to conflicts of an
25 international scale, which generally come from concerned community
26 members looking to the City for guidance and support during difficult
27 times and with reference to the City's DEIB commitments toward
28 providing a safe, inclusive, welcoming, and belonging community as
29 articulated in R-5240 and R-5548; and
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31 WHEREAS, international conflicts can emerge rapidly and
32 unexpectedly, and requests for support or condemnation can come
33 quickly making it difficult for the City to respond in a timely and thoughtful
34 manner; and
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36 WHEREAS, while the City acknowledges that parties and
37 individuals in international conflicts may take actions that violate
38 Kirkland's values, international conflicts can be complex, complicated,
39 and contain deep historical roots of the involved parties, and the
40 circumstances surrounding such conflicts may involve more information
41 than is available to the City of Kirkland government at any given time
42 and in any event may evolve rapidly; and
43

44 WHEREAS, it is generally more appropriate federal and state
45 governments to be issuing statements on such international conflicts,

46 given their greater abilities to access information and be kept abreast of
47 rapidly evolving situations; and
48

49 WHEREAS, the City attempting to take formal positions in these
50 matters may exacerbate division between opposing groups in Kirkland's
51 own community and leading to opposing groups possibly requesting that
52 the City reject the statement request or adopt an alternative, creating
53 additional local conflict; and
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55 WHEREAS, City Councils, both past and present, have always
56 been willing to take action and issue statements in response to
57 complicated, challenging, and/or controversial events or issues that
58 affect the Kirkland community, but responding appropriately to
59 international conflicts is beyond the scope of the City's powers,
60 functions, and resources; and
61

62 WHEREAS, for the reasons set forth above, the City will
63 generally not issue a specific position statement regarding unfolding
64 events of international conflict and will instead rely upon an
65 Organizational Statement on International Conflict, intended to reflect
66 the City's stated values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and
67 to be available to provide rapid responses to unfolding international
68 events that are rooted in the City's values.
69

70 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the
71 City of Kirkland, as follows:
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73 Section 1. The City Council reaffirms its commitment to creating
74 a Kirkland that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming, where everyone feels
75 they can belong, and free of any form of hate, bias, discrimination, or
76 oppression. The City also acknowledges that parties in international
77 conflicts may take actions that violate Kirkland's values.
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79 Section 2. In response to community requests to take positions
80 on international conflict, the City Manager, in consultation with the
81 Mayor, is hereby authorized to publish publicly a substantively similar
82 statement to what is provided below:
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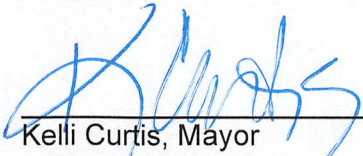
84 "In response to recent international events, the City
85 condemns atrocities, violence, and aggression by any party,
86 and rejects any form of hate, bias, discrimination, or
87 oppression."
88

89 "The City of Kirkland reaffirms to community members the
90 commitment towards maintaining a safe community where
91 everyone is welcome and belongs and to protecting and
92 serving all those who live in, work in, or visit Kirkland without
93 regard for race, religion, color, national origin, gender
94 identity, age, income or economic status, political affiliation,
95 veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or physical,
96 mental, or sensory ability."

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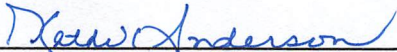
Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 16th day of April, 2024.

Signed in authentication thereof this 16th day of April, 2024.



Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:



Kathi Anderson, City Clerk