

RESOLUTION R-5738

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND
ENDORING THE KIRKLAND YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS AS A REFERENCE
GUIDE WHEN CONSIDERING POLICY AND BUDGET DECISIONS THAT
MAY IMPACT YOUNG PEOPLE.

1 WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland is deeply committed to ensuring that every young
2 person in our community deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued; and
3

4 WHEREAS, in early 2025, the King County Council adopted a comprehensive county-
5 wide Youth Bill of Rights to serve as a formal guide when King County considers policies and
6 budgetary decisions that impact children and youth; and
7

8 WHEREAS, recognizing the value of a unified regional vision, the Kirkland Youth
9 Council utilized King County's foundational framework as a baseline for a local youth-led effort
10 to provide a similar framework to embed youth perspectives into the City of Kirkland's decision-
11 making; and
12

13 WHEREAS, throughout the 2025–2026 school year, the Kirkland Youth Council
14 carefully tailored the County's language to address the distinct, localized infrastructure, safety,
15 and community needs specific to teens living in Kirkland; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the Kirkland Youth Bill of Rights developed by the Kirkland Youth Council
18 addresses nine essential focus areas: Basic Needs & Wellbeing; Health, Wellness, & Digital
19 Safety; Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging; Safety & Security; Community & Youth Spaces;
20 Environment & Public Spaces; Transportation & Mobility; Youth Voice & Civic Engagement;
21 and Recreation & Personal Growth; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that local decisions regarding infrastructure,
24 environment, health, and community spaces directly impact the daily lives, development, and
25 well-being of Kirkland's younger residents; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that youth civic engagement and perspective
28 enhances decision making and supports healthy communities and, as a result, has long been
29 committed to creating consistent, meaningful channels for youth input on City policies,
30 including through the establishment of the Kirkland Youth Council as an advisory group since
31 1996 and through direct youth representation on certain City advisory groups, boards, and
32 commissions; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the City is also committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of
35 Kirkland youth, as demonstrated by the City's reactivation of the Kirkland Teen Union
36 Building with critical on-site free services, including behavioral health counseling, and
37 through the City's continued investment in human services grant funding that supports
38 housing stability, school-based services, and other programs that help young people thrive at
39 home, at school, and throughout the community; and
40

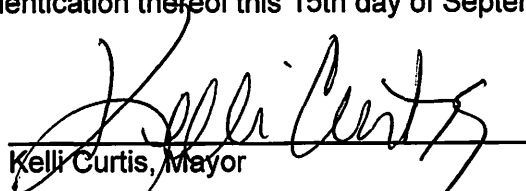
41 WHEREAS, endorsing the Kirkland Youth Bill of Rights serves as a continuation of
42 the City's dedication to supporting youth and creating healthy communities.
43

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

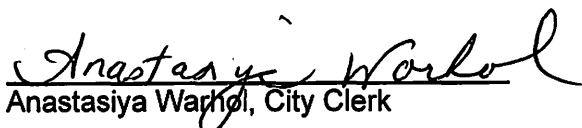
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47 Section 1. The Kirkland Youth Bill of Rights, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby
48 endorsed as a reference guide for the City when considering policy and budget decisions that
49 may impact young people.

50
51 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 15th day of
52 September, 2026.

53
54 Signed in authentication thereof this 15th day of September, 2026.


Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:


Anastasiya Warhol, City Clerk

Kirkland Youth Bill of Rights: A Framework for City Action

We, the youth of Kirkland, believe that every young person deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued in their community. This framework should be used as a reference when developing policies, allocating resources, and evaluating city programs. In all decisions, the City of Kirkland should consider the impact on youth and work to uphold the following:

I BASIC NEEDS & WELLBEING

City decisions should promote youth access to essential needs by supporting community partnerships, maintaining safe public spaces, and investing in local resources, including:

- Access to nutritious food and basic resources
- Safe and stable living environments
- Clean water, outdoor spaces, and healthy environments

II HEALTH, WELLNESS & DIGITAL SAFETY

City decisions should support youth wellbeing by expanding access to resources, promoting education, and partnering with community organizations, including:

- Mental health support, accurate health information, counseling connections, and wellness resources
- Education and prevention efforts related to substance use
- Promotion of digital safety, including protection from cyberbullying and online harm

III EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

City decisions should foster a sense of belonging for all youth by ensuring inclusive programs, addressing barriers, and creating safe environments, including:

- Access to programs regardless of background, identity, or language
- Active response to discrimination, hate speech, and harmful behavior in city spaces
- Environments where youth feel safe expressing their identities

IV SAFETY & SECURITY

City decisions should promote youth safety through infrastructure, community support, and prevention efforts, including:

- Safe public spaces, including parks, streets, and community centers
- Infrastructure improvements such as lighting, sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalks
- Access to support and resources for youth impacted by violence

V COMMUNITY & YOUTH SPACES

City decisions should strengthen youth connection by creating and maintaining accessible, youth-centered spaces, including:

- Safe places for youth to gather, connect, and participate in activities
- Expanded access to community centers, teen programs, and after-school spaces
- Expanding awareness and accessibility of youth-centered spaces such as the Kirkland Teen Union Building

VI ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC SPACES

City decisions should protect youth access to healthy, well-maintained spaces by maintaining and improving public spaces, including:

- Clean streets, parks, and shared spaces
- Protection of natural areas, including parks and waterfronts
- Opportunities for youth involvement in sustainability efforts

VII TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

City decisions should support youth mobility through infrastructure improvements and advocacy, including:

- Safe sidewalks, bike lanes, and pedestrian routes
- Increased accessibility and safety for youth traveling independently
- Advocacy for reliable and youth-accessible public transportation options

VIII YOUTH VOICE & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

City decisions should reflect youth perspectives by creating consistent opportunities for engagement and representation, including:

- Meaningful ways for youth to provide input on policies and decisions
- Youth representation in advisory groups, boards, and commissions wherever possible.
- Clear channels for youth voices to be heard and considered

IX RECREATION & PERSONAL GROWTH

City decisions should support youth development by ensuring access to inclusive and affordable programs, including:

- Recreational activities, sports, arts, and cultural programs
- Opportunities that promote creativity, leadership, and personal growth