

## **Resolution in Opposition to Spending Public Funds on Safeco Field**

**WHEREAS** King County Executive Dow Constantine has proposed dedicating approximately 12% of the funds raised by the existing King County “Hotel-Motel Tax” to the maintenance and capital improvements of Safeco Field beginning in 2021<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the Seattle Times reported that the proposal is estimated to “generate between \$177 million and \$190 million for Safeco Field through 2043;”<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS** the Seattle Mariners were purchased in 2016 at a valuation of \$1.4 Billion and earned revenues of \$288 Million in 2017 according to Forbes Magazine<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** in 2006 Seattle voters passed I-91, banning the use of city funds for supporting sports teams without a minimum return on investment, proving public opposition to subsidizing private sports teams; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Seattle declared a homeless emergency November 2nd, 2015; and

**WHEREAS** the January 26th, 2018 “Count Us In” point-in-time count found 12,112 people experiencing homelessness in King County<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** State law allows the county to dedicate this revenue to affordable workforce housing and services for homeless youth, in addition to the currently proposed 37.5%; and

**WHEREAS** King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles submitted an amendment on July 31 to reallocate most of the funds currently designated for Safeco Field to be spent on housing<sup>5</sup>;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 36<sup>th</sup> District Democrats oppose the current spending proposal, urge the King County Council and King County Executive Dow Constantine to withdraw the current proposal and submit a new proposal that uses all of the funds currently dedicated to Safeco Field on affordable housing and homeless services; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to each member of the King County Council and to King County Executive Dow Constantine.

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Submitted by Jeremy Swirsley for consideration at the 36th District Democrats' August 15, 2018 meeting. Modified from the original text by Scott Alspach, 43rd LD Democrats.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/elected/executive/constantine/news/documents/Lodging\\_Tax\\_Motion\\_May\\_23.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/elected/executive/constantine/news/documents/Lodging_Tax_Motion_May_23.ashx?la=en)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.seattletimes.com/sports/mariners/king-county-councilmember-opposes-180-million-public-funds-proposal-for-mariners-and-safeco-field-upkeep/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/teams/seattle-mariners/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FINALDRAFT-COUNTUSIN2018REPORT-5.25.18.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.kingcounty.gov/council/news/2018/July/07-31-JKW-Safeco.aspx>