



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 5703  
June 2, 2020  
Special Business**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 5703: Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the time of COVID-19 Proclamation No. 252	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Proclaim the City Council’s commitment to an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias related to COVID-19, and urge all residents of our community to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council
<b>STAFF:</b>	Deborah Estrada, City Clerk
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Benson Wong                                      Dave Rosenbaum
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 252 – Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the time of COVID-19
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**SUMMARY**

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, immigrant and refugee community leaders and civil rights organizations have reported a regional and national increase in bias, harassment, and hate crimes, particularly against Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, and other marginalized communities.

To address this issue, on May 20, 2020 the Sound Cities Association (SCA) Board unanimously approved a Proclamation of commitment to an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias related to COVID-19. The Proclamation recognized that elected officials, and all members of the region, can and should promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms.

The City of Mercer Island Proclamation joins SCA and its member cities in rejecting racially-based bias, harassment, and hate crimes due to COVID-19, avows that the City will not tolerate discrimination of any kind, and denounces all COVID-19-related misnaming, blaming and harassment based on race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion.

Community members who observe or are experiencing incidents of discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes are encouraged to call 911 in emergency circumstances, and/or to report the incident to the Washington State Human Rights Commission (Toll-free 1-800-233-3247) or the King County Office of Civil Rights at (206) 684-4500. The City joins SCA in urging all residents of member cities to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Proclaim the City Council's commitment to an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias related to COVID-19 and urge all residents of our community to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.



## The City of Mercer Island, Washington

# Proclamation

### COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

**WHEREAS**, the City of Mercer Island has declared a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as a community priority by Proclamation No. 201 on November 21, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, since the outbreak of COVID-19, immigrant and refugee community leaders and civil rights organizations have reported a regional and national increase in bias, harassment, and hate crimes, particularly against Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, and other marginalized communities; and

**WHEREAS**, misinformation about coronavirus propagates fear that hurts people and impairs the ability of our first responders and other city services to provide necessary response to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, each of us can and should promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Mercer Island rejects racially-based bias, harassment, and hate crimes due to COVID-19, will not tolerate discrimination of any kind, and denounces all COVID-19-related misnaming, blaming and harassment based on race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion; and

**WHEREAS**, we ask community members who observe or are experiencing incidents of discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes to call 911 in emergency circumstances, and/or to report the incident to the Washington State Human Rights Commission (Toll-free 1-800-233-3247) or the King County Office of Civil Rights at (206) 684-4500;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Benson Wong, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim:

The City Council's commitment to an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias related to COVID-19, and urge all residents of our community to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.

**APPROVED**, this 2nd day of June 2020

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Benson Wong, Mayor