

CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. R-14-1005

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON, OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF THE KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC IN AUBURN

WHEREAS, King County Public Health is facing an approximately \$15 million annual budget deficit and is proposing closure of several local county health clinics to address its budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, King County is proposing to close the Auburn Public Health Clinic beginning in 2015, as well as clinics in Federal Way, Bothell, and White Center. Two Seattle area clinics proposed for closure will have primary care services transferred to other healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to close both the southeast King County clinics will leave the southernmost cities in King County — the 7th and 5th largest cities in the County respectively – with reduced access to health care by the medically unserved, thereby imposing a greater and disproportionate burden on low-income residents of south and southeast King County to travel further and at greater expense to get necessary health services; and

WHEREAS, low-income residents have fewer mobility choices and are dependent on public transit. However, available public transit options are expected to be further restricted by proposed Metro service cuts, including the elimination and reduction of routes between Auburn and Kent, which compounds the burden of travel for low-income residents; and

WHEREAS, King County in 2007 adopted the King County Public Health Operational Master Plan which includes as one of four Guiding Principles, "Driven by Social Justice: ...Public health will be a voice for the needs of the weak, the poor, minorities and the disenfranchised." The of southeast King County population of is seeing an influx of those that fall into these categories; and

WHEREAS, King County further emphasized the importance of social justice regarding health in 2008 by instigating the King County Equity & Social Justice Initiative, which emphasizes the importance of equal access to basic health care; and then adopted in 2010 the King County Strategic Plan 2010-2014: Working Together for One King County, which emphasizes equitable opportunities for all people and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Declaration of Support.

The City Council understands the need to address the revenue shortfalls in the King County Public Health budget requests. The City Council firmly believes that any cuts should reflect a commitment to equity across the county's service area and reflect the location of populations of need. As such, the City Council strongly requests that King County officials revisit the clinic closure proposal for King County Public Health and refocus its commitment to provide more equitable access to health care and avoid leaving the southernmost part of King County without a county-funded public health clinic.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON, AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF THIS 27TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2014.

William T. Allison, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shaunna Lee-Rice, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM;

Patricia Taraday, City Attorney