



King County

# Metropolitan King County Council

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, "Ombuds" is a Scandinavian term that means "defender of the people's rights" and is a profession that has existed for centuries, while remaining relatively unknown; and

WHEREAS, the King County Home Rule Charter mandates that the people of King County have a right to the services of an ombuds, with the office being established by the voters in 1968; and

WHEREAS, King County is committed to fostering a community that promotes equity, fairness, respect, adherence to the law, and effective resolution of disputes within a diverse population; and

WHEREAS, disagreements, conflicts, complaints, confusion, and questions will inevitably arise in any government; and

WHEREAS, the fair and effective resolution of such issues is in the best interest of both the residents involved and King County, as it fulfills its mission of local governance; and

WHEREAS, King County acknowledges the benefit of providing an independent, impartial, and confidential resource whose role is to investigate the operations of King County government, alleged violations of the Employee Code of Ethics, reports of improper governmental action and retaliation pursuant to the Whistleblower Protection Code, and alleged violations of the Lobbyist Disclosure Code; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association has established the second Thursday of October as Ombuds Day in the United States, to recognize the ombuds profession;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim this Thursday, October 14, 2021, as

### OMBUDS DAY

in King County and encourage all residents and officials to become familiar with the Ombuds Office and to support and utilize these essential services.

DATED this tenth day of October, 2021.

Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair

Rod Dembowski, District One

Kathy Lambert, District Three

Dave Upthegrove, District Five

Joe McDermott, District Eight, Council Vice Chair

Girmay Zahilay, District Two

Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four

Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven

Reagan Dunn, District Nine, Council Vice Chair