

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31577

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5 A RESOLUTION confirming that the City of Seattle’s core value of race and social equity is one
6 of the foundations on which the Comprehensive Plan is built.
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8 WHEREAS, Seattle was a national leader when it made social equity one of the four core values
9 in the original 1994 Comprehensive Plan and will continue to demonstrate leadership in
10 advancing social equity through planning processes; and

11 WHEREAS, the state Growth Management Act requires goals for housing, economic
12 development, and community participation, and Seattle is committed to social equity
13 through establishing equity goals and policies for all elements of its Comprehensive Plan;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Mayor Nickels launched the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) in 2004
16 to eliminate race-based disparities within Seattle, and Mayor Murray’s RSJI Executive
17 Order 2014-02 declared the City will incorporate a racial equity lens in citywide
18 initiatives to achieve coordinated planning and equitable growth; and

19 WHEREAS, while it has long been assumed that there is a trade-off between equity and
20 economic efficiency, new evidence shows that regions that work toward equity have
21 stronger and more resilient economic growth – for everyone; and

22 WHEREAS, race and social equity planning includes not only shared distribution of the benefits
23 and burdens of growth and investments, but also partnership in the process resulting in
24 shared decision-making and more equitable outcomes that strengthen the entire region;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, the City works to create racial equity by explicitly naming and addressing the
2 historic and current impacts of institutional and structural racism in our policies,
3 procedures, programming, initiatives, and budgetary decisions; and

4 WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that structural and institutional racism, including redlining,
5 restrictive racial covenants, and other discriminatory practices led to racial segregation
6 and current racial disparities in quality of life outcomes such as access to quality
7 education, living wage employment, healthy environment, affordable housing, and
8 transportation; and

9 WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan is a 20-year vision and roadmap for Seattle's future
10 growth that provides an opportunity to articulate how the City will reduce race and social
11 disparities related to growth; and

12 WHEREAS, the Seattle Planning Commission, Women's Commission, Human Rights
13 Commission, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Commission, and Immigrant and
14 Refugee Commission jointly submitted a letter to the Mayor and City Council declaring
15 race and social equity to be a priority for the Comprehensive Plan update; and

16 WHEREAS, the Equitable Development Initiative, led by the Department of Planning and
17 Development and the Office for Civil Rights, provides oversight and an equity
18 framework for the Comprehensive Plan; and

19 WHEREAS, some urban villages and centers experience racial and economic segregation and
20 are home to residents, businesses, and community organizations at risk of displacement
21 due to a range of institutional and systemic factors, as well as new development that the
22 Comprehensive Plan anticipates for those villages and centers; and

1 WHEREAS, City Council Resolution 31492 adopting the Growing Transit Communities

2 Compact recognizes the importance of equitably distributing the benefits and burdens of
3 growth and of having clear goals to define and measure successful equitable growth; and

4 WHEREAS, achieving equitable growth requires further work by City offices and departments

5 to implement plans and tools that will operationalize the new equity goals and policies in
6 the updated Comprehensive Plan; and

7 WHEREAS, because the City benefits from the diversity of its population, the City desires to

8 incorporate the expertise of those most negatively impacted by growth to provide

9 guidance on policies and investments; NOW, THEREFORE,

10 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
11 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

12 Section 1. Race and Social Equity Core Value. The City will rename the current Social
13 Equity Core Value to be the Race and Social Equity Core Value. The City will make this value a
14 foundation of the Comprehensive Plan (Plan), integrating it into the other core values.

15 Section 2. Defining the Race and Social Equity Core Value. The City's Equitable
16 Development Initiative used the City's Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) and other best practices to
17 review the current Plan, producing the following definitions for key terms to be used to provide
18 clear and consistent language throughout the Plan.

19 A. Marginalized People: Persons and communities of color, immigrants and refugees,
20 those experiencing poverty, and people living with disabilities.

21 B. Race and Social Equity: The time when all marginalized people can attain those
22 resources, opportunities, and outcomes that improve their quality of life and enable them to reach
23 their full potential. The city has a collective responsibility to address the history of inequities in

1 existing systems and their ongoing impacts in Seattle communities, leveraging collective
2 resources to create communities of opportunity for everyone, regardless of race or means.

3 C. Equitable Development: Public and private investments, programs, and policies in
4 neighborhoods to meet the needs of marginalized people and reduce disparities, taking into
5 account past history and current conditions, so that quality of life outcomes such as access to
6 quality education, living wage employment, healthy environment, affordable housing and
7 transportation, are equitably distributed for the people currently living and working here, as well
8 as for new people moving in.

9 Section 3. Incorporating Race and Social Equity in the Plan. The update process will
10 include an equity analysis focused on outcomes for people, in addition to places. The City will
11 continue to use the RET to identify and address equity-related issues relevant to the Plan in order
12 to incorporate equity into the Plan in the following areas:

13 A. Introduction and Core Value. The Plan's introduction will articulate a definition of
14 race and social equity and a clear vision of equitable growth. It will also provide the rationale
15 for making race and social equity a foundation of the Plan, will include a description of current
16 context, connect historical decisions to current conditions, and will articulate the benefits of
17 addressing race and social equity into the Comprehensive Plan. The race and social equity core
18 value statement will include the Principles of Equitable Development ratified by the Puget Sound
19 Regional Equity Network in 2012.

20 B. Elements. New equity goals and policies will be consistent and clear throughout the
21 entire Plan. Goals and policies for capital investments and the provision of public services will
22 include but are not limited to the City's priority to eliminate racial and social disparities.

1 Section 4. Growth Strategy Equity Analysis. The Executive will analyze and report on
2 how the growth scenarios being reviewed in the environmental impact statement could have
3 differential impacts on marginalized people, including the public interventions needed so that
4 these populations can benefit from and not be displaced or overly burdened by the future impacts
5 of growth, and recognizing that impacts may be different for different communities. The analysis
6 will consider the potential displacement of residents, communities and businesses due to market
7 forces, as well as the positive impact that new investments in quality education, employment,
8 public services, transportation and other infrastructure, and other amenities can have in reducing
9 their vulnerability to displacement. The analysis will also consider how growth scenarios may
10 increase opportunities for these populations to live and work in areas with existing quality
11 education, employment, services, infrastructure and other amenities.

12 Section 5. Equity Measurements. Quantifiable city-wide community indicators of
13 equitable growth will be identified, measured over time, and reported annually as part of the
14 City's ongoing monitoring of the Plan's effects on race and social equity over time. Equity
15 measurements will track growth and displacement issues and be disaggregated by race, ethnicity,
16 and income when possible. Equity measures will be updated as more data is available to measure
17 impacts of growth for marginalized people.

18 Section 6. The City strives to make the Plan more understandable and to seek community
19 input on the Plan by:

20 A. Issuing, at the same time as the release of the draft Plan, a "Plan Summary" that uses
21 clear and simple language to highlight policy changes including policies related to race and
22 social equity and the equity analysis of the growth strategies.

1 B. Using RSJI's Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement best practices to engage
2 historically underrepresented communities during the Plan's public review period; and

3 C. Continuing to invite collaboration with the Planning Commission, other commissions,
4 and community organizations to review equity goals and policies.

5 Section 7. Stewardship of Race and Social Equity. The City will incorporate the
6 expertise of those most negatively impacted by growth to provide guidance on policies and
7 investments so that marginalized people can benefit from, and not be displaced or overly
8 burdened by, future growth.

9 A. Community Representation. The City will seek guidance on City policies and
10 investments from community bodies who demonstrate inclusive representation and voice,
11 especially of marginalized people.

12 B. The Seattle Planning Commission. The Seattle Planning Commission will annually
13 review and report on the updated Equity Measures, and with the collaboration of relevant
14 commissions and community organizations, guide, monitor, and recommend revisions to the
15 Plan's equity goals, policies and definitions, as appropriate.

16 Section 8. The Department of Planning and Development and Office for Civil Rights
17 will report back to the Council on the goals and policies related to the race and social equity core
18 value as part of the briefings on the Plan update. The Director's Report to the Executive will
19 submit to Council along with the legislation updating the Plan will describe the goals and
20 policies related to the race and social equity core value.

21 Section 9. Schedule. To the extent feasible:

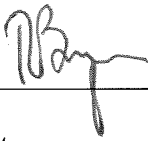
22 By May 2015, the Executive intends to issue a draft environmental impact statement
23 examining alternative growth scenarios as part of Seattle 2035;

1 By July 2015, the Executive will issue a draft plan for public review and comment;


2 By December 2015, the Executive will issue a final environmental impact statement and
3 a recommended plan; and

4 In 2016, the Council will consider a recommended plan for adoption.

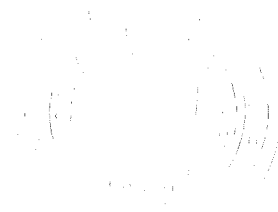
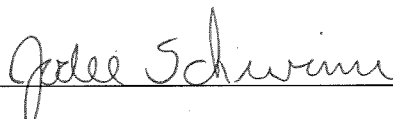
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6 Adopted by the City Council the 11th day of MAY, 2015, and signed
7 by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 11th day
8 of MAY, 2015.

9 
10 _____
11 President _____ of the City Council

12 The Mayor concurred the 15th day of May, 2015

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14 
15 _____
16 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

17 Filed by me this 15th day of MAY, 2015.

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19 
20 for 
21 _____
22 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)