



Proclamation

Whereas, the Sound Cities Association has declared a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as an organizational priority; 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 Sound Cities Association and its member cities reject 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 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.

Now, therefore, we, the Sound Cities Association, do hereby proclaim

Our commitment to an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias related to COVID-19

And we urge all our members and residents of our member cities to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.

Dated this 20th day of May, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dana Ralph'.

Dana Ralph, Sound Cities Association President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deanna Dawson'.

Deanna Dawson, Sound Cities Association Executive Director