

1 Sponsored by: Councilmembers Dave Morell and Connie Ladenburg  
2 Requested by: County Council

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5 **RESOLUTION NO. R2020-43**  
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8 **An Emergency Resolution of the Pierce County Council Requesting**  
9 **Thoughtful and Thorough Review of the Policies,**  
10 **Procedures and Best Practices Employed Through the Law**  
11 **and Justice Systems of Pierce County in the Discharge of**  
12 **Their Duties in the Service of the Citizens of Pierce County,**  
13 **Respecting the Diversity of our Citizenry.**  
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15 **Whereas**, the Pierce County Council represents small rural towns to suburban,  
16 urban cities inclusive of broad and diverse set of communities and the Council  
17 embraces all aspects of our communities; and  
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19 **Whereas**, as a Council, we value community inclusivity through two key,  
20 fundamental premises that: (1) all citizens should be and should see themselves as  
21 respected, contributing members of the community, and (2) all citizens should be bound  
22 by a common set of principles based on fairness of treatment, recognition of rights,  
23 acceptance of responsibilities, commitment to equality, and dedication to expanding  
24 opportunities for all; and  
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26 **Whereas**, as a community of considerable racial, ethnic, religious, and other  
27 types of diversity, Pierce County has a complex history, which has included both  
28 significant efforts to achieve greater justice, equality, and understanding, as well as  
29 unfortunate periods and events that have demonstrated the need for increased  
30 commitment, transparency, ideas, and action to work toward these goals; and  
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32 **Whereas**, today, just as in the past, we continue to face opportunities and  
33 challenges related to diversity: race and religion, gender and ethnicity, language and  
34 sexual orientation, diverse abilities and disabilities; and  
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36 **Whereas**, intersecting with dimensions of diversity are other critical underlying  
37 factors such as economic, health, and educational disparities which lead to systemic  
38 racism; and  
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40 **Whereas**, it is increasingly imperative that we as a County assume the  
41 responsibility of facing the challenges and seizing the opportunities created through our  
42 diversity, and for our diversity guided by the principle that all citizens are created equal  
43 and the rights of every citizen are diminished when the rights of one citizen is  
44 threatened; and  
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1           **Whereas**, we understand and value all members of the community and our  
2 obligation to address and care for vulnerable and underrepresented populations, and to  
3 listen to affected communities; and  
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5           **Whereas**, we value the citizens of Pierce County and commit to fair and  
6 equitable services and transparent processes for every citizen, and we lament inequity  
7 and disregard for life and resolve to review and address systems and processes; and  
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9           **Whereas**, the Pierce County public safety, law, and justice systems have a  
10 mission to provide fair, deliberate, honest service in a manner that is respectful, and  
11 through most unbiased and transparent means; and  
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13           **Whereas**, the Pierce County Council is committed to serve justly and firmly,  
14 believes in doing what is right, and recognizes the need to be unbiased and to do the  
15 right thing for the right reason and strive to do better for all citizens of Pierce County;  
16 and  
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18           **Whereas**, Pierce County is one county made up of many voices. We hear the  
19 collective voices and strive to review and develop innovative policies, programs and  
20 services which are fair and just, and gives each and every citizen equal opportunity to  
21 develop their talents to provide opportunities for a better future; **Now Therefore**,

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23           **BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Pierce County:**  
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25           Section 1. The Pierce County Council directs the Executive to provide thoughtful  
26 and thorough review of the Sheriff's Department current public safety system policies  
27 and procedures, and review of best practices employed in the discharge of their duties  
28 in the service of the citizens of Pierce County.  
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30           Section 2. The Pierce County Council directs the Executive to provide thoughtful  
31 and thorough review of the Sheriff's Department current corrections system policies and  
32 procedures, and review of best practices employed in the discharge of their duties in the  
33 service of the citizens of Pierce County.  
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35           Section 3. The Pierce County Council directs the Executive to provide a  
36 thoughtful and thorough review of the current policies, procedures, and best practices of  
37 Assigned Counsel in the representation and discharge of their duties in the service of  
38 the citizens of Pierce County.  
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40           Section 4. The Pierce County Council directs the Executive to provide a  
41 thoughtful and thorough review of the current policies, procedures, and best practices of  
42 the Medical Examiner, in the representation and discharge of their duties in the service  
43 of the citizens of Pierce County.  
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1           Section 5. The Pierce County Council directs the Executive to provide a  
2 thoughtful and thorough review of the current policies, procedures, and best practices of  
3 the Economic Development Department in the representation and discharge of their  
4 duties in the service of and support for businesses and workforce development for the  
5 citizens of Pierce County.

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7           Section 6. The Pierce County Council requests that the Judicial Branch provide a  
8 thoughtful and thorough review of the judicial systems current policies and procedures,  
9 and review of best practices employed in the discharge of their duties in the service of  
10 the citizens of Pierce County.

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12           Section 7. The Pierce County Council requests that the Office of the Prosecuting  
13 Attorney provide a thoughtful and thorough review of current policies and procedures,  
14 and review of best practices employed in the discharge of their duties in the service of  
15 the citizens of Pierce County.

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17           Section 8. The Pierce County Council requests that these reviews be presented  
18 to the Pierce County Council Standing Committee on Public Safety no later than  
19 September 1, 2020.

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21           Section 9. Following receipt of the departments' reviews, the County Council will  
22 develop an action plan to prevent and reduce inequality and injustice, and that action  
23 plan will commit to the formulation and implementation of public policies and  
24 procedures, distribution of public services, and management of all institutions serving  
25 the public directly or by contract, that ensure fairness, justice, equality and equity.

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27           Section 10. The Clerk of the Council shall provide a copy of this Resolution to all  
28 County Councilmembers, Council Staff, the County Executive, and all Pierce County  
29 Departments and Agencies.

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32           **ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.**

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34 ATTEST:

**PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Pierce County, Washington

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40 **Denise D. Johnson**  
41 Clerk of the Council

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**Douglas G. Richardson**  
Council Chair

