

Resolution No. 31337

A RESOLUTION recognizing and supporting the peaceful and lawful exercise of the First Amendment as a cherished and fundamental right in the effort to seek solutions for economically distressed Americans at the federal and local levels.

The City of Seattle – Legislative Department

Resolution sponsored by: *[Signature]*

[Signature]

Committee Action:

Date	Recommendation	Vote

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council. _____

Full Council Action:

Date	Decision	Vote
11.14.11	Adopted as amended <i>[initials]</i>	9-0

Related Legislation File: _____

Date Introduced and Referred: <u>Nov. 7, 2011</u>	To: (committee): <u>Full Council</u>
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date of Final Action: <u>11.14.11</u>	Date Presented to Mayor: <u>11.15.11</u>
Date Signed by Mayor: <u>Nov. 17, 2011</u>	Date Returned to City Clerk: <u>Nov. 17, 2011</u>
Published by Title Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date Returned Without Concurrence:
Published in Full Text _____	

Law Department

RESOLUTION 31337

1
2
3 A RESOLUTION recognizing and supporting the peaceful and lawful exercise of the First
4 Amendment as a cherished and fundamental right in the effort to seek solutions for
economically distressed Americans at the federal and local levels.

5 WHEREAS, Seattle community members, like others across the United States, are frustrated by
6 the continuing economic crisis that threatens individual, family and City finances, and
7 our community's quality of life, and are participating in Occupy protests in the streets to
make their voices heard; and

8 WHEREAS, the roots of these protests are varied, including sustained unemployment, growing
9 income disparity, banking system failures, stalled earning power, unjust tax systems, and
corporate influence in politics that all contribute to ongoing wealth disparities; and

10 WHEREAS the causes and consequences of the current economic crisis erode confidence in the
11 social contract upon which the Constitution of the United States of America is based;
12 namely, the ability of Americans to come together and form a more perfect union,
13 establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote
14 the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for all, allowing every American
to strive for and share in our nation's prosperity through cooperation and hard work; and

15 WHEREAS, this prolonged economic downturn has hurt nearly all Americans, in the areas of
16 wealth loss, unemployment, and housing access, it has taken an even greater toll on
17 people of color and women. Women are 29% more likely to be poor than men. The
18 poverty rate for single mother families has increased to 40.7%. Economic gains made by
19 people of color since the Civil Rights Movement have been substantially reduced by the
Great Recession; and Caucasian Americans experienced a net wealth loss of 16 percent
from 2005 to 2009. African Americans lost about half of their wealth and Latinos lost
two-thirds of their wealth in this same period; and

20 WHEREAS, more than 25 million Americans are unemployed and seeking work; more than 50
21 million Americans are living without health insurance; and, more than one in five
22 American children are growing up in households living in poverty without sufficient
resources to meet basic survival needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter; and

23 WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in its report, a "CDC Health
24 Disparities & Inequalities Report – United States, 2011" documents that income
25 inequality in the United States is the highest among advanced industrialized nations, with
26 wide-spread inequities in U.S. health outcomes by income, race, and gender; and

1 WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, gains in our economy have accrued largely to the top 1%
2 income earners, who now control 40% of the wealth in the United States due in part to
public policies that can be changed; and

3 WHEREAS, one of the largest problems dragging down our economy is the foreclosure crisis,
4 with many owners struggling to obtain loan adjustments and too many banks with flawed
review procedures; and

5 WHEREAS, Washington State has been particularly hard-hit by the foreclosure crisis, ranking
6 17th in the nation in number of foreclosures, with a projected 132,000 mortgages
7 foreclosed between 2009 and 2012 and 30,000 families in Washington losing their homes
to foreclosure in 2010, an increase of 70% over the previous year; and

8 WHEREAS, in Washington State, from the third quarter of 2006 to the first quarter of 2010
9 foreclosure starts increased by 316% and 3 of every 100 homes is in some phase of the
10 foreclosure process, with King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark and Spokane counties
11 experiencing the highest rates of new foreclosure starts. In September 2011 alone, 1 of
every 910 housing units in Washington State received foreclosure filing and 1 of every
12 897 housing units received foreclosure filing in King County; and

13 WHEREAS, between 2009-2012 the foreclosure crisis is projected to cost Washington
14 communities, homeowners and local governments approximately \$3.7 billion and the
15 high number of foreclosures in neighborhoods is projected to cause an estimated \$19.5
billion drop in total home equity wealth; and

16 WHEREAS, local governments are straining under the increasing weight of responsibility to
17 provide for basic support services at a time of declining tax revenues and as a result of
budget reductions by the state and federal government; and

18 WHEREAS, Americans can and must resolve the divisive economic and social realities facing
19 our nation in a peaceful way that honors our commitment to democracy, equality and
20 justice;

21 **NOW THEREFORE,**

22
23 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
24 **MAYOR CONCURRING:**
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27
28



1 Section 1. By adoption of this Resolution, the City of Seattle recognizes the peaceful and
2 lawful exercise of First Amendment Rights by "Occupy Seattle" and others. The City does not
3 condone actions that infringe upon the lawful rights of others, obstruct or interfere with the
4 efforts of law enforcement officers to protect such rights, or cause personal injury or property
5 destruction.

6
7 Section 2. The structural causes of the economic crisis facing our society require
8 decisive and sustained action at the national and state levels. Cities are harmed by the crisis and
9 must play an important role in the development of public policy to address it. By adoption of
10 this resolution, the City Council commits to the following steps to minimize economic insecurity
11 and destructive disparities:

- 12
- 13 1. The City will review its banking and investment practices to ensure that public funds
14 are invested in responsible financial institutions that support our community. The
15 Council may also consider future legislation to promote responsible banking and
16 provide an incentive for banking institutions to invest more in our City, particularly
17 with regard to stabilizing the housing market and supporting the creation of new
18 businesses. This review should include evaluating City policies on responsible
19 depositing and management of City funds.
 - 20 2. The City will examine the number of home foreclosures in Seattle, the geographic
21 neighborhoods in which the foreclosures are occurring, and lender information on
22 homes involved in the foreclosure process, including real estate owned homes.
23 Furthermore, the Office of Housing will work with the Seattle-King County Asset
24 Building Collaborative's Foreclosure Prevention Action Team to gather qualitative
25 data on the circumstances and causes of foreclosures and the foreclosure methods and
26 practices of lenders, including reviewing apparent inequities many people in Seattle
27 face when lender foreclosure proceedings occur.
 - 28 3. The City will continue to address economic inequality and wealth disparities by race,
ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender. Through the City's Race and Social Justice
Initiative and 2012 City Council committee work programs, the Council will continue
to identify effective approaches to asset building, job training, access to banking and
other financial services, educational attainment, family support, access to health care
and other ways to address historic trends in disparities.



- 1 4. The Council will request a report from the Department of Finance and Administrative
2 Services on all exemptions or waivers allowed for City taxes to examine the impact of
3 both tax shifts and lost revenue to the City against the economic and social benefits
4 the exemptions are intended to bring to the City.
- 5 5. The Council will consult with advocates of tax reform and experts on equitable
6 taxation and review past tax reform efforts in order to work effectively with the State
7 Legislature toward a more equitable tax structure.
- 8 6. The Council will analyze how city election campaigns are currently financed and
9 explore alternatives.
- 10 7. As federal and state assistance dwindles, the City resolves to continue to use available
11 resources to provide assistance for the most vulnerable people in Seattle.
- 12 8. The City recognizes that reforms in education and career preparation are essential for
13 building a viable future and that the disparities in these areas begin very early in life
14 and they continue through adulthood. The Council will seek maximum possible
15 funding for Early Learning and Basic Education in the State Legislative Agenda.
16 During challenging times, it is also critically important to support community
17 colleges, technical colleges, and state universities as they provide access to retraining
18 and workforce development opportunities.

19 Section 3. The City of Seattle requests our Congressional leaders to generate solutions
20 for economically distressed Americans, specifically to:

- 21 1. Support job creation, substantial investments in the nation's critical physical and
22 technological infrastructure and deficit reduction by adopting fiscal policies with
23 equitable corporate and individual taxation and by allowing the 2010 extension of
24 President Bush's tax cuts to expire in 2012 as the law currently requires.
- 25 2. Tighten regulation of the banking and financial sector, including adoption of new
26 rules and vigorous investigation and prosecution of individuals and corporations that
27 violate the fraud, theft, and securities laws.



1 3. Retain or increase community-building block grants for local schools and social
2 services and protect public education from devastating cuts and prevent tuition levels
3 that block fair access to higher education.

4 Section 4. The Council and the Mayor recognize and support the important responsibility
5 the Seattle Police Department exercises in protecting for everyone our First Amendment rights to
6 freedom of speech and assembly while, at the same time, appropriately enforcing City laws and
7 regulations.

8 Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2011, and signed by me
9 in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2011.

10
11 
12 _____
13 President _____ of the City Council

14 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

15
16 
17 _____

18 Mayor

19 Filed by me this 17th day of November, 2011.

20
21 
22 _____
23 For City Clerk

24 (Seal)



FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Herbold/4-5331	n/a

Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION supporting the peaceful and lawful exercise of the First Amendment as a cherished and fundamental right in the effort to seek solutions for economically distressed Americans at the federal and local levels.

Summary of the Legislation:

The resolution recognizes some of the roots of the current economic crisis and the resulting increased wealth inequality and commits to specific steps to try and diminish economic disparity and its impact on local government and Seattle residents.

The resolution also states support for each the exercise of the rights to freedom of speech and assembly as a part of the effort to help address these inequalities and the responsibility of the Seattle Police Department to protect these rights while also appropriately enforcing City laws and regulations.

Please check one of the following:

This legislation does not have any financial implications.

(Please skip to "Other Implications" section at the end of the document and answer questions a-h. Earlier sections that are left blank should be deleted. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each question.)

This legislation has financial implications.

(If the legislation has direct fiscal impacts (e.g., appropriations, revenue, positions), fill out the relevant sections below. If the financial implications are indirect or longer-term, describe them in narrative in the "Other Implications" Section. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each title and question.)



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5 WHEREAS, Seattle community members, like others across the United States, are frustrated by
6 the continuing economic crisis that threatens both the finances of individuals and the city
7 as well as our community's quality of life and are protesting in the streets to make their
voices heard; and

8 WHEREAS, "Occupy" protests have occurred across the Country with the goal of urging
9 community members to peaceably assemble in public spaces to create a dialogue to
address the problems and generate solutions for economically distressed people; and

10 WHEREAS, the roots of these protests are varied, including sustained unemployment, growing
11 income disparity, banking system failures, stalled earning power, unjust tax systems, and
12 corporate influence in politics that all contribute to ongoing wealth disparities; and

13 WHEREAS the causes and consequences of the current economic crisis erode confidence in the
14 social contract upon which the Constitution of the United States of America is based;
15 namely, the ability of Americans to come together and form a more perfect union,
16 establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote
the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for all, allowing every American to
strive for and share in our nation's prosperity through cooperation and hard work; and

17 WHEREAS, this prolonged economic downturn has hurt nearly all Americans, in the areas of
18 wealth loss, unemployment, and housing access, it has taken an even greater toll on
19 people of color and women. Women are 29% more likely to be poor than men. The
20 poverty rate for single mother families has increased to 40.7%. Economic gains made by
21 people of color since the Civil Rights Movement have been substantially reduced by the
22 Great Recession; and Caucasian Americans experienced a net wealth loss of 16 percent
from 2005 to 2009. African Americans lost about half of their wealth and Latinos lost
two-thirds of their wealth in this same period. It is assumed that similar levels of decline
affect other communities of color.

23 WHEREAS, more than 25 million Americans are unemployed and seeking work; more than 50
24 million Americans are living without health insurance; and, more than one in five
25 American children are growing up in households living in poverty without sufficient
26 resources to meet basic survival needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter ; and

THIS VERSION IS NOT ADOPTED



1 WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in its report, a “CDC Health
2 Disparities & Inequalities Report – United States, 2011” documents that income
3 inequality in the United States is the highest among advanced industrialized nations, with
4 wide-spread inequities in U.S. health outcomes by income, race, and gender; and

5 WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, gains in our economy have accrued largely to the top 1%
6 income earners, who now control 40% of the wealth in the United States due in part to
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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE
MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

Section 1. By adoption of this Resolution, the City of Seattle recognizes the peaceful and lawful exercise of First Amendment Rights by “Occupy Seattle” and others.

Section 2. The structural causes of the economic crisis facing our society require decisive and sustained action at the national and state levels. Cities are harmed by the crisis and must play an important role in the development of public policy to address it. By adoption of this Resolution, the City Council commits to the following steps to minimize economic insecurity and destructive disparities:

1. The City will review its banking and investment practices to ensure that public funds are invested in responsible financial institutions that support our community. The Council may also consider future legislation to promote responsible banking and provide an incentive for banking institutions to invest more in our City, particularly with regard to stabilizing the housing market and supporting the creation of new businesses. This review should include evaluating City policies on responsible depositing and management of City funds. Moreover, the City will examine the number of home foreclosures in Seattle and the circumstances and causes of the foreclosures, the financial institutions involved in the foreclosures and the methods, tactics and apparent inequities that many people face in Seattle when lender foreclosure proceedings occur and will explore solutions intended to be more humane, civil and consistent with a spirit of assistance to the borrower.
2. The City will continue to address economic inequality and wealth disparities by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender. Through the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative and 2012 City Council committee work programs, the Council will continue to identify effective approaches to asset building, job training, access to banking and other financial services, educational attainment, family support, access to health care and other ways to address historic trends in disparities.



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Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2011, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this ____ day of _____, 2011.

President _____ of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

THIS VERSION IS NOT ADOPTED



STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

278741
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No.

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

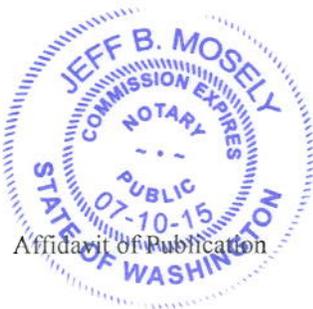
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:31337&31338 TITLE ONLY

was published on

12/01/11

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 40.95, which amount has been paid in full.



Affidavit of Publication

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

12/01/11

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on November 14, 2011, and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.seattle.gov>. For information

on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>. Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-8344.

RESOLUTION NO. 31337

A RESOLUTION recognizing and supporting the peaceful and lawful exercise of the First Amendment as a cherished and fundamental right in the effort to seek solutions for economically distressed Americans at the federal and local levels.

RESOLUTION NO. 31338

A RESOLUTION setting the public hearing on the petition of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the vacation of a portion of Westlake Avenue between Pine Street and Fourth Avenue in the downtown area of Seattle; pursuant to Chapter 35.79 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 15.62 (Clerk File 311670).

Publication ordered by the City Clerk

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, December 1, 2011.

12/1(278741)