



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

Res 31578

Record No.: Res 31578

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Returned to Clerk

Version: 3

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 04/15/2015

Final Action: 05/08/2015

**Title:** A RESOLUTION reaffirming the City of Seattle's support of Somali communities to continue remittances to Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

**Notes:**

**Filed with City Clerk:** 5/8/2015

**Mayor's Signature:** 5/8/2015

**Sponsors:** Harrell

**Vetoed by Mayor:**

**Veto Overridden:**

**Veto Sustained:**

**Attachments:**

**Drafter:** Steve Lee

**Filing Requirements/Dept Action:**

**History of Legislative File**

**Legal Notice Published:** ☐ Yes ☐ No

| Ver-<br>sion: | Acting Body:                                                                                                              | Date:      | Action:                                  | Sent To:                                                       | Due Date: | Return<br>Date: | Result: |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------|
| 1             | Mayor                                                                                                                     | 04/16/2015 | Mayor's leg<br>transmitted to<br>Council | City Clerk                                                     |           |                 |         |
|               | <b>Action Text:</b> The Council Bill (CB) was Mayor's leg transmitted to Council. to the City Clerk                       |            |                                          |                                                                |           |                 |         |
|               | <b>Notes:</b>                                                                                                             |            |                                          |                                                                |           |                 |         |
| 1             | City Clerk                                                                                                                | 04/16/2015 | sent for review                          | Council<br>President's Office                                  |           |                 |         |
|               | <b>Action Text:</b> The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office                           |            |                                          |                                                                |           |                 |         |
|               | <b>Notes:</b>                                                                                                             |            |                                          |                                                                |           |                 |         |
| 1             | City Clerk                                                                                                                | 04/21/2015 | sent for review                          | Council<br>President's Office                                  |           |                 |         |
|               | <b>Action Text:</b> The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office                           |            |                                          |                                                                |           |                 |         |
|               | <b>Notes:</b>                                                                                                             |            |                                          |                                                                |           |                 |         |
| 1             | Council President's Office                                                                                                | 04/22/2015 | sent for review                          | Public Safety, Civil<br>Rights, and<br>Technology<br>Committee |           |                 |         |
|               | <b>Action Text:</b> The Resolution (Res) was sent for review to the Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology Committee |            |                                          |                                                                |           |                 |         |
|               | <b>Notes:</b>                                                                                                             |            |                                          |                                                                |           |                 |         |

- 1 Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology Committee 04/29/2015 adopt as amended Pass

Action Text: The Committee recommends that Full Council adopt as amended the Resolution (Res).  
Notes:

In Favor: 4 Vice Chair Sawant, Member Harrell, O'Brien, Licata  
Opposed: 0

- 1 Full Council 05/04/2015 adopted as amended Pass

Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted as amended by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:

Notes: ACTION 1:

Motion was made by Councilmember Harrell, duly seconded and carried, to amend Resolution No. 31578, by substituting version 4 for version 3.

ACTION 2:

Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution No. 31578 as amended.

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Okamoto, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

- 3 City Clerk 05/06/2015 submitted for Mayor's signature Mayor

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was submitted for Mayor's signature to the Mayor  
Notes:

- 3 Mayor 05/08/2015 Signed

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was Signed  
Notes:

- 3 Mayor 05/08/2015 returned City Clerk

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was returned to the City Clerk  
Notes:

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**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**RESOLUTION 31578**

A RESOLUTION reaffirming the City of Seattle's support of Somali communities to continue remittances to Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

WHEREAS, Merchants Bank of California closed down the accounts of all Somali-American Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) on February 6, 2015 due to federal government action and this has devastating consequences for the tens of thousands of Somalis in our country; and,

WHEREAS, Somalia's dependence on remittances is exacerbated by the lack of a credible functioning commercial banking system, and the existing Central Bank of Somalia has limited relationships with foreign banks and other commercial banking services; and,

WHEREAS, over the past few years, MTOs have found it increasingly difficult to comply with Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regulations; and,

WHEREAS, every year Somalia receives approximately \$1.3 billion in remittances and more than 730,000 people in Somalia are dependent on financial assistance for survival. Funding from remittances accounts for basic needs including food, water, shelter and education. One in every five children in Somalia dies before their fifth birthday, and only 30 percent of the population has access to clean drinking water; and,

WHEREAS, remittances are crucial in the empowerment of women entrepreneurship in Somalia, as many banks will not provide loans to women entrepreneurs who have no savings of their own because they are considered riskier loan recipients than men; and,

WHEREAS, the closing of authorized money remittance companies due to federal action contributes to the increase and proliferation of illicit dealers; and,

WHEREAS, banning money transmittals may swell rates of unemployment, poverty and other socioeconomic challenges in Somalia that make youth vulnerable to street gangs and push families apart; and,

1 WHEREAS, remittances sent from overseas help pay tuition for a majority of youth who are  
2 currently going to colleges and universities; and,

3 WHEREAS, Seattle has one of the biggest Somali communities in the United States and  
4 thousands more are estimated to be in King County; and,

5 WHEREAS, the vast majority of our Somali residents are law abiding community members,  
6 many of whom were refugees, and our new residents need effective systems that will  
7 support them in staying connected to their loved ones back home; and,

8 WHEREAS, Somalis are critical to Seattle's economic vitality because they purchase goods and  
9 services and run small businesses, which in turn create jobs and generate revenue for the  
10 region; and,

11 WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes that over the past few years the U.S. government has  
12 taken small and crucial steps to help Somalia gain financial stability, including  
13 collaboration with the Central Bank of Somalia to help it improve its public financial  
14 management system and the passage of the Money Remittances Improvement Act.

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
17 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

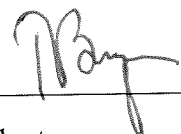
18  
19 Section 1. The City of Seattle reaffirms its support of our Somali community in their  
20 desire to support their loved ones in the Horn of Africa. Furthermore, the City of Seattle strongly  
21 urges concerned parties to find an amicable solution that facilitates the normal flow of  
22 remittances without compromising the safety and security of the United States.

23  
24 Section 2. The City Council and Mayor request that staff from the Seattle Office of  
25 Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, City Attorney's Office,  
26 and Finance Department work with community based Somali organizations to review options for  
27 the State, City or local banks to continue servicing remittances. The City Council and Mayor

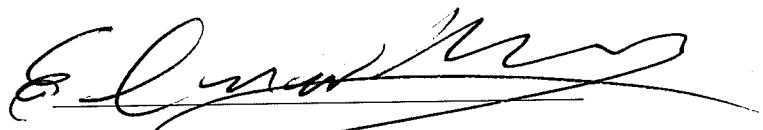
request that these parties consider, among other things, how best an advocacy strategy can be established to influence state and federal officials for the relief sought in this resolution.

Section 3. As the City of Seattle demonstrates its support for Somali communities to continue remittance to Somalia and the Horn of Africa, the City of Seattle also supports the facilitation of stronger relationships between our Somali residents and local lending institutions and credit unions in order to achieve access to capital and credit. The City of Seattle believes such efforts can be major factors in assisting the Somali community.

Adopted by the City Council the 4<sup>th</sup> day of may, 2015, and  
signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 4<sup>th</sup> day of  
may, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

The Mayor concurred the 8<sup>th</sup> day of may, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this 8<sup>th</sup> day of may, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

STATE OF WASHINGTON -- KING COUNTY

--SS.

324545

No. 31578, 31579

CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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:TITLE ONLY RESOLUTIONS

was published on

05/27/15

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$46.50 which amount has been paid in full.



Affidavit of Publication

*James C. O'Leary*  
Subscribed and sworn to before me on  
05/27/2015  
*[Signature]*

Notary public for the State of Washington,  
residing in Seattle

## State of Washington, King County

### City of Seattle Title Only Resolutions

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on May 4, 2015, 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. 31578

A RESOLUTION reaffirming the City of Seattle's support of Somali communities

to continue remittances to Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 31579

A RESOLUTION amending Resolutions 31497, 31498, and 31499; updating the monthly President Pro Tem schedule, committee membership of the standing committees of the Seattle City Council for 2016, and Councilmember participation on King County Committees, Regional Committees, State Committees, and City of Seattle Committees.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, May 27, 2015.  
5/27(324546)