



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

Res 31828

Record No.: Res 31828

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 07/13/2018

Final Action: 07/20/2018

**Title:** A RESOLUTION in support of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly resolution on infant and young child feeding, affirming The City of Seattle's recognition of breastfeeding as critical to infant and maternal health.

**Notes:**

Date  
Filed with City Clerk: 7/20/2018

Mayor's Signature: 7/20/2018

Sponsors: Mosqueda

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments: Att A - Resolution WHA 71.9

Drafter: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

### History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:  Yes  No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	07/13/2018	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	07/13/2018	sent for review	City Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the City Council						
	Notes:						
1	City Council	07/16/2018	referred	City Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the City Council						
	Notes:						
1	City Council	07/16/2018	adopted				Pass
	Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:						
	Notes: Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31828.						

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council  
President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson,  
Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember  
O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

1	City Clerk	07/18/2018	submitted for Mayor's signature	Mayor
1	Mayor	07/20/2018	Signed	
1	Mayor	07/20/2018	returned	City Clerk
1	City Clerk	07/20/2018	attested by City Clerk	

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.

Notes:

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**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION 31828**

A RESOLUTION in support of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly resolution on infant and young child feeding, affirming The City of Seattle's recognition of breastfeeding as critical to infant and maternal health.

WHEREAS, breastfeeding has been proven to reduce neonatal mortality, and is associated with improved nutritional, developmental, immunological, and social outcomes; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is linked to faster recovery from childbirth and reduced risk of acute and chronic conditions such as breast and ovarian cancers, osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, Type 2 diabetes, and obesity; and

WHEREAS, suboptimal breastfeeding is associated with numerous adverse child health outcomes including frequent diarrhea, pneumonia, and increased mortality; and

WHEREAS, failure to promote breastfeeding coupled with inadequate attention to the safety of replacement formulas can have serious health consequences; and

WHEREAS, a 2010 analysis in Pediatrics estimates \$13 billion in savings per year in the U.S. if 90 percent of families breastfeed exclusively for six months; and

WHEREAS, a 2013 study in The Lancet estimates that thirteen percent of all child deaths in lower-income countries can be prevented if breastfeeding is increased to optimal levels, and that over 800,000 infant deaths that occurred in 2010 are attributable to suboptimal breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, international concern about declining rates of breastfeeding in the 1970s led health authorities to make a concerted effort to promote breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, in 1981 the World Health Organization adopted the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, which includes provisions preventing hospitals and

1 birthing centers from accepting free or low-cost infant formula, providing free samples of  
2 infant formula to families, or advertising breast-milk substitutes; and

3 WHEREAS, over 500 hospitals and birthing centers nationwide have been designated Baby-  
4 Friendly using the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, including  
5 Swedish Medical Center, University of Washington Medical Center, and UW Medicine  
6 Northwest Hospital; and

7 WHEREAS, a 2011 study in the American Journal of Public Health indicates that government  
8 breastfeeding promotion results in improved breastfeeding practices; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2010 President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care  
10 Act, which amended the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to require employers to  
11 provide a suitable location and reasonable break time for employees to express breast  
12 milk; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2011 The City of Seattle (City) amended Seattle Municipal Code Section  
14 4.34.055 to stipulate that employees who are eligible under FLSA to take breaks to  
15 express breast milk may do so without deduction of pay or paid leave balances; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2012 the City added as an unfair public accommodation practice in Seattle  
17 Municipal Code Section 14.06.030 the right of a mother to breastfeed her child in places  
18 of public accommodation free from discrimination; and

19 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health in 2012 passed Resolution 12-05 supporting the  
20 incorporation of breastfeeding promotion and other health-related best practices into state  
21 standards for child care; and

1 WHEREAS, the City provided \$2.3 million in 2018 to Public Health Seattle-King County for the  
2 Nurse-Family Partnership program, which provides pre- and post-natal assistance to low  
3 income first-time mothers, including help with breastfeeding; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2017 89 percent of mothers enrolled in the Women, Infants, and Children  
5 Nutrition Program (WIC) in Washington State initiated breastfeeding at birth, but only 51  
6 percent of mothers enrolled in WIC in Washington State still breastfed after six months,  
7 which is below the national ten-year health objective (60.6 percent) established by the  
8 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

9 WHEREAS, in light of continuing worldwide challenges in infant nutrition, health and  
10 development, the Seventy-first World Health Assembly passed Resolution WHA 71.9  
11 (Attachment A to this resolution) in support of breastfeeding promotion policies; and

12 WHEREAS, according to news reports the United States delegation at the Seventy-first World  
13 Health Assembly attempted to change WHA 71.9 by eliminating a passage urging  
14 member states to protect, promote and support breastfeeding, as well as another section  
15 urging member states to restrict the promotion of inappropriate foods; NOW,

16 THEREFORE,

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

19 Section 1. The City of Seattle (City) supports all local, national, and international efforts  
20 to halt inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children, and it will continue to  
21 engage in policies that promote breastfeeding to protect infant, young child, and maternal health.

22 Section 2. The City condemns the actions of the U.S. delegation at the Seventy-first  
23 World Health Assembly and urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S.

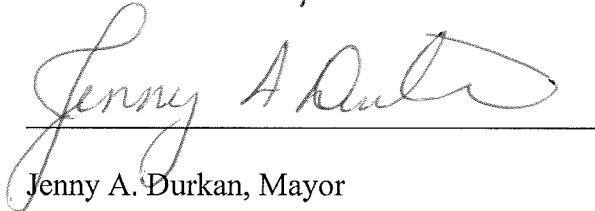
1 Department of State under the Trump Administration to adhere to science-based policy and  
2 overwhelming global consensus in support of breastfeeding.

3 Adopted by the City Council the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018,  
4 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 16<sup>th</sup> day of  
5 July, 2018.

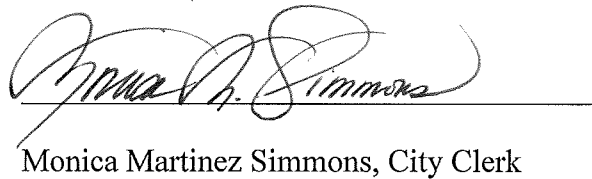
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7 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

8 The Mayor concurred the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

9   
10 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

11 Filed by me this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

12   
13 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

14 (Seal)

15  
16 Attachments:  
17 Attachment A – Resolution WHA 71.9

## Infant and young child feeding

The Seventy-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the reports on maternal, infant and young child nutrition;<sup>1</sup>

Recalling resolutions WHA33.32 (1980), WHA34.22 (1981), WHA35.26 (1982), WHA37.30 (1984), WHA39.28 (1986), WHA41.11 (1988), WHA43.3 (1990), WHA45.34 (1992), WHA46.7 (1993), WHA47.5 (1994), WHA49.15 (1996), WHA54.2 (2001), WHA55.25 (2002), WHA58.32 (2005), WHA59.21 (2006), WHA61.20 (2008), WHA63.23 (2010), WHA65.6 (2012) and WHA69.9 (2016) on infant and young child nutrition, appropriate feeding practices and related questions, as well as resolutions WHA68.19 (2015), WHA69.8 (2016) and United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015);

Reaffirming the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030;

Recalling the commitment to implement relevant international targets and action plans, including WHO's global maternal, infant and young child nutrition targets for 2025 and WHO's global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020 and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition resulting from the Second International Conference on Nutrition;

Reaffirming also that breastfeeding is critical for child survival, nutrition and development, and maternal health;

Affirming that the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding contributes substantially to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals on nutrition and health, and is a core element of quality health care;

Recognizing that appropriate, evidence-based and timely support of infant and young child feeding in emergencies saves lives, protects child nutrition, health and development, and benefits mothers and families;

Expressing concern that nearly two in every three infants under 6 months of age are not exclusively breastfed; that fewer than one in five infants are breastfed for 12 months in high-income countries; and that only two in every three children between 6 months and 2 years of age receive any breast milk in low- and middle-income countries;

Acknowledging that achievement of the WHO global target to increase to at least 50% the proportion of infants under 6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed by 2025 requires

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<sup>1</sup> Documents A71/22 and A71/23.

sustainable and adequate technical and financial resources, and supportive and protective policy and regulatory interventions as well as political will, and that this needs to be part of broader efforts to strengthen health systems;

Welcoming the inclusion of support for exclusive breastfeeding in the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023;

Welcoming also the annual celebration of World Breastfeeding Week as an opportunity to communicate the importance of breastfeeding and advocate for the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding;<sup>1</sup>

Also recognizing the ongoing implementation by WHO of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, including in nutrition programmes,

1. URGES Member States<sup>2,3,4</sup> in accordance with national context and international obligations:
  - (1) to increase investment in development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes aimed at protection, promotion, including education and support of breastfeeding, including through multisectoral approaches and awareness raising;
  - (2) to reinvigorate the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative, including by promoting full integration of the revised Ten steps to successful breastfeeding, in efforts and programmes aimed at improving quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health;
  - (3) to implement and/or strengthen national mechanisms for effective implementation of measures aimed at giving effect to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, as well as other WHO evidence-based recommendations;
  - (4) to promote timely and adequate complementary feeding in accordance with the guiding principles for complementary feeding of the breastfed child,<sup>5</sup> as well as guiding principles for the feeding of the non-breastfed child 6–24 months of age;<sup>6</sup>
  - (5) to continue taking all necessary measures in the interest of public health to implement recommendations to end inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children;
  - (6) to take all necessary measures to ensure evidence-based and appropriate infant and young child feeding during emergencies, including through preparedness plans, capacity-building of personnel working in emergency situations, and coordination of intersectoral operations;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/>, accessed 21 May 2018.

<sup>2</sup> And where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

<sup>3</sup> Taking into account the context of federated states.

<sup>4</sup> Member States could take additional action to end inappropriate promotion of food for infants and young children.

<sup>5</sup> Guiding principles for complementary feeding of the breastfed child. Washington (DC): PAHO; 2003 ([http://www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/documents/a85622/en/](http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/a85622/en/), accessed 21 May 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Guiding principles for feeding non-breastfed children 6-24 months of age. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2005 ([http://www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/documents/9241593431/en/](http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/9241593431/en/), accessed 18 May 2018).



(7) to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week<sup>1</sup> as a valuable means to promote breastfeeding;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to provide, upon request, technical support to Member States in mobilizing resources, including financial resources, and monitoring and implementation of WHO recommendations to support infant and young child feeding, including in emergencies, and to review national experiences from this implementation and continue to update and generate evidence-based recommendations;

(2) to provide, upon request, technical support to Member States to establish, review and implement national laws, policies and programmes to support infant and young child feeding;

(3) to continue developing tools for training, monitoring and advocacy on the revised Ten steps to successful breastfeeding and the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative, to provide support to Member States with implementation;

(4) to support Member States in establishing nutrition targets and intermediate milestones for maternal, infant and young child nutrition indicators, consistent with the time frame for implementation of the Framework for Action, the conference outcome document of the Food and Agriculture Organization's and World Health Organization's Second International Conference on Nutrition and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) and the timeframe of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015–2030);

(5) to continue providing adequate technical support to Member States, upon request, in assessing national policies and programmes, and other measures, including quality data collection and analyses;

(6) to develop tools for training, monitoring, advocacy and preparedness for the implementation of the operational guidance on infant and young child feeding in emergencies and support Member States to review experiences in its adaptation, implementation and monitoring;

(7) to report to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly in 2020 on the progress made in implementing this resolution and in alignment with the reporting requested in resolution WHA69.9.

Seventh plenary meeting, 26 May 2018  
A71/VR/7

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<sup>1</sup> <http://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/>, accessed 21 May 2018.