



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

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:

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31578

1
2
3
4 A RESOLUTION reaffirming the City of Seattle's support of Somali communities to continue
5 remittances to Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, every year Somalia receives approximately \$1.3 billion in remittances and more
18 than 730,000 people in Somalia are dependent on financial assistance for survival.
19 Funding from remittances accounts for basic needs including food, water, shelter and
20 education. One in every five children in Somalia dies before their fifth birthday, and only
21 30 percent of the population has access to clean drinking water; and,

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

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

27 WHEREAS, banning money transmittals may swell rates of unemployment, poverty and other
28 socioeconomic challenges in Somalia that make youth vulnerable to street gangs and
29 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:**

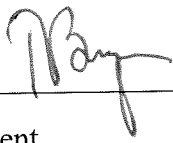
18
19 Section 1. The City of Seattle reaffirms its support of our Somali community in their
20 desire to support their loved ones in the Horn of Africa. Furthermore, the City of Seattle strongly
21 urges concerned parties to find an amicable solution that facilitates the normal flow of
22 remittances 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

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

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


9
10 Adopted by the City Council the 4th day of may, 2015, and
11 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 4th day of
12 may, 2015.

13 
14 _____
15 President _____ of the City Council

16 The Mayor concurred the 8th day of may, 2015.

17
18 
19 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

20
21 Filed by me this 8th day of MAY, 2015.

22 
23 _____
24 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

25 (Seal)