

# RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, the rich heritage of Khmer culture and civilization, one of the original civilizations in Southeast Asia, dates back over 4,000 years; and

WHEREAS, during the Khmer Genocide, one of the bloodiest events in world history, approximately two million people lost their lives due to war and genocide between April 1975 and January 1979; and

WHEREAS, Khmer community leaders and elders work together relentlessly to rebuild the historical and cultural identity nearly exterminated by the Khmer Rouge and to uplift their communities through education and cultural empowerment; and

WHEREAS, our region is home to over 22,000 individuals of Khmer descent who enrich our cultural tapestry through arts and civic engagement, thriving local and international organizations, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the community coming together to remember the atrocities that occurred and to reflect on the ongoing challenges Khmer Americans face; and

WHEREAS, the Khmer community continues to persevere through post-traumatic stress and intergenerational trauma, and stands with all people impacted by war, fleeing prosecution, and targeted by public policies in the shared struggle for justice, dignity, and the right to live without fear of displacement and separation; and

WHEREAS, Khmer people have called King County home for over four decades, creating organizations, schools, and community centers that help Khmer Americans rebuild their lives, preserve their cultural identity, and advocate for policies that protect immigrant and refugee communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, recognize the

## 50th Anniversary of the Khmer Rouge Genocide

which falls on April 17, 2025, and urge all King County residents to join in this special observance.

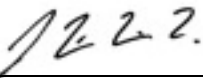
DATED this FIFTEENTH day of APRIL, 2025.



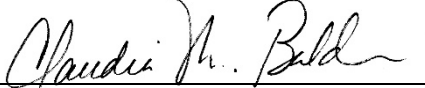
Girmay Zahilay, Council Chair, District Two



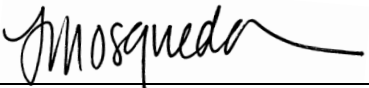
Rod Dembowski, District One



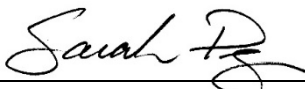
Jorge L. Barón, District Four



Claudia Balducci, District Six



Teresa Mosqueda, District Eight



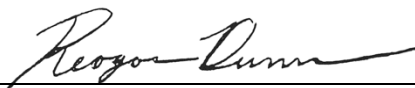
Sarah Perry, Council Vice-Chair, District Three



De'Sean Quinn, District Five



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, Council Vice-Chair, District Nine