

King County Department Policies and Procedures

King County Division Policy

Title	Document Code No.
KCIA FREE SPEECH ACTIVITIES	DLICY BFI-1A-01
Department/Issuing Agency King County Department of Executi	Services/Airport Division Date August 27, 2025
Approved Signed by:	orraine Patterson-Harris. DES Director

Corraine Patterson-Harris

- 1.0 SUBJECT TITLE: King County International Airport, Free Speech Activities Policy
 - 1.1 EFFECTIVE DATE: August 27, 2025
 - 1.2 TYPE OF ACTION: New Policy
 - 1.3 KEY WORDS: (1) Airport; (2) Free Speech; (3) First Amendment.

2.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for engaging in free speech activities at the King County International Airport (Airport).

3.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED: King County International Airport.

4.0 FINDINGS:

- 4.1 The United States acquired the Airport in 1941 for national defense purposes. In 1948, the United States returned the Airport to King County under the Surplus Property Act of 1944 subject to certain use restrictions, including that it be used as a public use airport.
- 4.2 The primary purpose of the Airport is to facilitate air transportation and travel.
- 4.3 From time to time, individuals and groups seek to engage in free speech activities implicating the First Amendment at the Airport, such as staging demonstrations, distributing literature, soliciting charitable support, conducting surveys, and expressing opinions and ideas in various forms (defined below as "Activities").
- 4.4 To ensure the safe, orderly, and efficient operation of the Airport while preserving its primary purpose of facilitating air transportation and travel, it is necessary that such Activities be subject to reasonable and viewpoint-neutral regulation.
- 4.5 The Airport is not a public forum and any First Amendment Activities on Airport property are subject to this policy.

King County Department of Executive Services/Airport Division

Effective Date: August 27, 2025

BFI-1A-01

Page 2 of 5

- 4.6 The Airport is among the nation's busiest general aviation airports while also space-constrained both inside the Main Terminal Building and on adjacent sidewalks and driveways wholly located on Airport property. In contrast, public roads, sidewalks and/or rights of way encircle the outer perimeter of the Airport and are available traditional public forums for the exercise of First Amendment Activities.
- 4.7 The Main Terminal Building is dedicated to airlines, ticketed passengers, tenants, Airport employees, administrative offices, and others using the building for purposes directly associated with a public use airport.
- 4.8 The Airport must meet significant security demands to ensure safe, orderly, and efficient air transportation and travel.
- 4.9 The following policies are adopted, amending and superseding all earlier versions, and providing as follows:

5.0 DEFINITIONS:

- 5.1 <u>Activity or Activities</u>. Free speech activity implicating the First Amendment, including Demonstration, Distribution, Solicitation, and Survey activities.
- 5.2 <u>Air Operations Area or AOA</u>. The secure area of the Airport designated for aircraft take-off, landing, and maneuvering, including but not limited to runways, taxiways, parking aprons, hangars, tie-down areas, navigation, and communications facilities.
- 5.3 <u>Airport</u>. King County International Airport/Boeing Field or KCIA, as set forth in that certain Instrument of Transfer, dated May 26, 1948, between the United States and King County, and as delineated in the Airport Layout Plan posted on the Airport Website. The Airport does not include the sidewalk along Airport Way South.
- 5.4 <u>Airport Director</u>. The person appointed by the King County Executive to manage, superintend, control, and protect the Airport.
- 5.5 <u>Airport Website</u>. https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/executive-services/transit-transportation-roads/airport
- 5.6 <u>Demonstration</u>. Using words or conduct to communicate or express an idea, view, or grievance with the intent, effect, or propensity to express that idea, view, or grievance to others.
- 5.7 <u>Distribution</u>. Distributing leaflets, pamphlets, flyers, books, photos, or any other written or printed material used to express a view or grievance to others.
- 5.8 <u>First Amendment</u>. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 5.9 <u>Main Terminal Building</u>. The passenger terminal and office building for Airport operations with an address of 7277 Perimeter Rd. S., Seattle, WA 98108.
- 5.10 <u>Maps</u>. The maps available on the Airport website designating the areas where Activities shall take place.

King County Department of Executive Services/Airport Division BFI-1A-01 Effective Date: August 27, 2025 Page 3 of 5

- 5.11 <u>Operations Manager</u>. The Airport official designated by the Airport Director authorized to assess and manage security concerns at the Airport.
- 5.12 <u>Solicitation</u>. Seeking funds, signatures, or other support on behalf of organizations for charitable, patriotic, political, social justice, religious, or educational purposes.
- 5.13 <u>Survey.</u> Conducting surveys on behalf of organizations for charitable, patriotic, political, social justice, religious, or educational purposes.

6.0 POLICIES:

- 6.1 <u>Designated Locations and Hours</u>. All Activities shall occur in the area(s) designated on the Maps and in no other location between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
 - 6.1.1 <u>Demonstration Activities</u>. Demonstration Activities shall occur in the area(s) designated on the Maps and in no other location, and only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. No person shall engage in Demonstration Activity outside of the designated area or time.
 - 6.1.2 <u>Distribution, Solicitation, and Survey Activities</u>. Distribution, Solicitation and Survey Activities shall occur in the area(s) designated on the Maps and in no other location, and only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Persons engaged in these Activities may set up a small table within the designated area during the designated hours to facilitate distributing information, soliciting support, or conducting surveys. No person shall engage in Distribution, Solicitation, or Survey Activities outside the designated area or time.
- 6.2 <u>Restoration of Designated Area</u>. Immediately following the Activity, participant(s) must clean up and restore the designated area used for the Activity to its original condition.
- 6.3 Off-Limits Areas. To ensure the safe and orderly operation of the Airport, no Activity shall take place in an area that is not designated for such Activity on the Maps, which includes but is not limited to the following locations:
 - 6.3.1 Secured area, including but not limited to the AOA.
 - 6.3.2 Inside the Main Terminal Building or any other building at the Airport.
 - 6.3.3 Within ten (10) feet of the entrance to, or exit from, the Main Terminal Building.
 - 6.3.4 Within ten (10) feet of the entrance to, or exit from, any tenant leasehold.
 - 6.3.5 Within ten (10) feet of any entrance to, or exit from, the Airport or the AOA.
 - 6.3.6 On paved portions of streets, roadways, driveways, or any drive lanes within the Airport, or any entrance thereto.
 - 6.3.7 Parking areas.

King County Department of Executive Services/Airport Division BFI-1A-01 Effective Date: August 27, 2025 Page 4 of 5

- 6.4 <u>Conduct Guidelines for Activities</u>. The following behavior is expressly prohibited during any Activity at the Airport:
 - 6.4.1 Engaging in an Activity outside the area designated on the Maps or outside the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - 6.4.2 Entering a secured area or the AOA.
 - 6.4.3. Harassing, intimidating, threatening, or assaulting any person.
 - 6.4.4 Physically or verbally obstructing, delaying, or interfering with a person's free movement at the Airport.
 - 6.4.5 Obstructing, delaying, or interfering with any vehicle or aircraft.
 - 6.4.6 Inciting others to violence or other criminal activity, or engaging in any activity that jeopardizes the health, safety, or security of Airport customers or employees.
 - 6.4.7 Indicating or representing that they, or the organization, are a representative or otherwise affiliated with King County or the Airport.
 - 6.4.8 Using sound or voice amplifying devices in, or adjacent to, the Main Terminal Building or any tenant leasehold building.
 - 6.4.9 Beating drums or using other devices to create a noise disturbance.
 - 6.4.10 Carrying banners or signs that are posted on poles (or rods of any type) that pose a hazard to others, or that exceed the allowed size limit, specifically banners or signs held or worn by a person that protrude beyond the person's front or back, above the person's head, or exceed the person's body width.
 - 6.4.11 Using or placing tables, stands, chairs, or other items on Airport premises, except as provided in Section 6.1.2.
 - 6.4.12 Storing placards, boxes, personal items, or supplies on Airport premises.
 - 6.4.13 Erecting temporary or permanent shelters on Airport premises.
 - 6.4.14 Destroying, damaging, or defacing Airport property.
 - 6.4.15 Failing to cease or alter Activities as directed by the Operations Manager during an emergency closure, suspension, or increased security threat as required in Section 6.5 of this Policy.
 - 6.4.16 Violating any federal, state, local law, or regulation.
- 6.5 <u>Emergency Closure or Suspension</u>. The Airport Director or other designee may order the emergency closure of the Airport, or any portion thereof, due to an emergency, security or safety conditions, catastrophe, disaster, unusual congestion, extreme

King County Department of Executive Services/Airport Division BFI-1A-01 Effective Date: August 27, 2025 Page 5 of 5

weather conditions, or applicable federal, state, or local government orders. Activities shall immediately cease for the duration of the emergency closure or suspension.

6.5.1 When the federal government declares an alert on the National Terrorism Advisory System issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security regarding security conditions for Airport operations, the Operations Manager or other designee may reasonably accommodate the security concern, including but not limited to, designating substitute date(s), time(s), or location(s) to conduct the Activity, and reducing the maximum number of participants allowed to participate in the Activity. The Operations Manager or other designee may consider the totality of circumstances relating to security, including but not limited to, the availability of security resources at the Airport given the increased demands and requirements by the federal government.

7.0 CONSEQUENCES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE:

- 7.1 <u>Ejectment</u>. Any person who engages in Activities in off-limits areas or locations outside the designated area or hours, or who violates the conduct guidelines for Activities in Section 6.4, or who fails to follow the conduct guidelines for Activities when directed to do so by law enforcement may be subject to ejectment from the Airport and other lawful remedies.
- 7.2 <u>Property Removal</u>. Any items or property brought to the Airport for, during, or as part of an Activity must be removed by Activity participants immediately after the Activity ends. Any items or property remaining after an Activity ends may be removed by the Airport.
- 7.3. Other Remedies. The remedies described in this Section 7.0 are in addition to the Airport's remedies at common law and applicable statutes, including trespass.

8.0 REFERENCES:

- 8.1 Airport, Title 15 K.C.C.
- 8.2 Surplus Property Act of 1944, 58 Stat.765, codified as 49 U.S.C. §§ 47151-47153.
- 8.3 King County Charter Section 320.20 (providing that the county executive "shall have the power to assign duties to administrative offices and executive departments which are not specifically assigned by this charter or by ordinance").
- 8.4 Executive Policy/Procedures No. INF 7-4-1 (EP): Drafting and Implementing Executive and Department Policies.