

**MOTION 2020-12:
A MOTION OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION**

To explore short-term employment opportunities that enhance the mission of the Port of Seattle and support economic recovery for the residents of King County from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**AMENDED AND ADOPTED
MAY 26, 2020**

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Port of Seattle is to promote economic opportunities and quality of life in the region by advancing trade, travel, commerce and job creation in an equitable, accountable and environmentally responsible manner. The Port’s stewardship of aviation and marine operations, infrastructure and environmental assets is essential to Washington State’s economy and quality of life and is critical to the Port’s ability to fulfill its mission.

The Port of Seattle is well-positioned to stimulate economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by providing short-term employment opportunities through accelerated investment in the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of Port assets and programs. Examples include habitat restoration and clean-up projects that support port developments, environmental enhancements, improvements to near-port communities’ quality of life , expansion of public art, training, and collaboration with regional partners to promote responsible travel.

TEXT OF THE MOTION

The Port Commission hereby directs the Executive Director to review existing Port programs and capital projects and identify those which could provide additional short-term employment opportunities and may:

- support the Port’s mission be administered with minimal Port staff time
- advance projects currently underway
- commence by July 1, 2020
- be undertaken while adhering to Governor Jay Inslee’s “Safe Start Washington” phased reopening
- achieve substantial completion and / or progress within 90-120 days
- be performed by youth 16-24 years of age without specialized skills

The Executive Director should include in this review programs and projects performed by community partners that support the Port’s mission and stewardship of its assets and provide estimates of expenses and total employment related to each. The Executive Director shall report results of this review and recommendations to the Commission by June 9, 2020.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION

The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been widespread. The likely need for ongoing social distancing will pose significant challenges for the creation of near-term employment opportunities. Such challenges can be overcome, in part, by targeting those activities that make use of the ability to work outside during the fair-weather conditions this Spring and Fall.

While workers in nearly every sector Washington's economy have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the loss of employment opportunities for low-skilled workers between 16-24 years of age is the most substantial.

Identifying projects and programs that can advance the Port's mission, including the creation of short-term employment emphasizing this age group, will provide material benefit to the Port as it looks to maintain, preserve and enhance the assets and programs of local, regional and statewide significance that are necessary to Washington State's economic recovery in 2020.

RCW 53.08.245 states "...port districts may contract with nonprofit corporations and private and public entities that provide training systems ... and promote workforce diversity in furtherance of this and other acts relating to economic development.

Economic development programs may include: Occupational job training and placement, job advancement and job retention, preapprenticeship training, or occupational education programs associated with port tenants, customers, and local economic development related to port tenants or port-related economic activities that are sponsored by a port and operated by a nonprofit, private, or public entity..."

Any program that is developed shall require quantitative information on program outcomes including: the number of workers trained, recruited, placed in jobs, and retained; the types of jobs and range of compensation; the number and types of businesses that are served; and any other tangible benefits realized by the port, the workers, businesses, and the public."