RESOLUTION R-5334

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND SUPPORTING INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 1639, CONCERNING FIREARMS.

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2017, the Mayor, with the support of the City Council, reiterated the values of the City of Kirkland (“City”) by proclaiming Kirkland as a safe, inclusive and welcoming city for all people, and requested that City staff assist the City Council in developing and implementing a program to communicate the City's values; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017, the City Council passed Resolution R-5240 formalizing the themes in the proclamation and directing the City Manager to identify, through community discussions, additional actions that can be taken by the City and the community to help keep Kirkland a safe, welcoming and inclusive city for all people; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017, the City Council also enacted Ordinance O-4558 adding a new Chapter 3.18 to the Kirkland Municipal Code entitled "Sustaining a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming City"; and

WHEREAS, the tragic killing of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, 2018, reighnted the debate in communities around the nation regarding gun safety and community safety, including in Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state constitutions guarantee the right to keep and bear arms, and many Kirkland residents legally own firearms for reasons such as hunting, recreation and personal protection; and

WHEREAS, input from all community members, including gun owners, is necessary to promote safe and responsible gun ownership in order to reduce mass shootings, homicides, suicides and accidental shootings; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2018, the City Council welcomed over 70 parents from various Kirkland schools to City Hall to hear
community concerns and discuss potential actions that could be
taken to help keep students safe from gun violence; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2018, the City and the Lake
Washington School District ("School District") co-hosted a
community discussion about school safety and community safety
at which members of the public requested further action by the
City and School District on the topics of gun safety and community
safety; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2018, in response to a request from
Kirkland residents, the City Council adopted Resolution R-5312
setting forth the need for community dialogue and action on the
topic of gun safety and community safety; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2018, the City Council hosted a
Town Hall on gun safety and community safety in order to receive
input from the community on actions the City might undertake to
reduce gun violence; and

WHEREAS, some concerned Kirkland residents have urged
the City Council to officially support statewide ballot measures that
promote gun and community safety; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure 1639 ("I-1639"), concerning
firearms, will be on the general election ballot, November 6, 2018;
and

WHEREAS, I-1639 seeks to make changes to the Chapter
9.41 RCW, Firearms and Dangerous Weapons; and

WHEREAS, I-1639 would create an enhanced background
check system and require firearm safety training and waiting
periods before semiautomatic assault rifles may be purchased or
delivered; and

WHEREAS, I-1639 would impose age limitations on who
may purchase or possess certain firearms, including prohibiting
purchases by persons under age 21; and

WHEREAS, I-1639 would require certain secured firearm
storage or trigger locks, and criminalize noncompliant firearm
storage if it results in unauthorized use; and
WHEREAS, I-1639 would enact other firearm-related requirements, including certain warnings, recordkeeping and fees; and

WHEREAS, as provided for by RCW 42.17A.555, the City Council provided public notice of its intent to consider taking action at its September 18, 2018 regular meeting to support or opposed I-1639, at which time members of the public were given an opportunity to express their views in connection with I-1639; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to show its support to I-1639.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The City Council supports Initiative 1639, concerning firearms.

Section 2. The City Council urges Kirkland voters to vote yes on Initiative 1639 and enact the measure into law.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 18th day of September, 2018.

Signed in authentication thereof this 18th day of September, 2018.

Amy Walen, Mayor

Attest:

Kathi Anderson, City Clerk