

RESOLUTION NO. 3767

A RESOLUTION of the Port of Seattle Commission establishing a Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment Policy Directive to guide the implementation of the Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program and other Port operations that impact the Duwamish Valley Community.

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle is committed to creating economic opportunity for all, stewarding our environment responsibly, partnering with surrounding communities, promoting equity and social responsibility, and being transparent and accountable; and

WHEREAS, the Port’s Century Agenda states the Port will use its influence as an institution to promote Women and Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE) growth, small business growth, and workforce development to include increasing workforce training, job and business opportunities for local communities in trade, travel and logistics; and

WHEREAS, the Century Agenda also states the Port will be the greenest and most energy-efficient port in North America by reducing air pollutants and carbon emission, and restoring, creating and enhancing 40 additional acres of habitat in the Green/Duwamish watershed and Elliott Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Port recognizes that institutional racism has contributed to both inequities in the distribution of the Port’s economic prosperity benefits and to environmental degradation amongst near-Port communities compared to others, particularly those experiencing socio-economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Port Commission adopted Resolution No. 3736, which was amended by Resolution 3746, establishing a Priority Hire Policy Directive to provide good family wage jobs to qualified construction workers from economically distressed areas of King County, including Georgetown and South Park, by increasing access to port projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Port Commission adopted Resolution No. 3747 establishing a Welcoming Port Policy Directive to increase engagement with, and support for, immigrant and refugee communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Port Commission adopted Resolution No. 3737 establishing a Diversity in Contracting Policy Directive to provide the maximum practicable opportunity for

41 increased participation by WMBE in Port contracting for public works, consulting services,
42 supplies, material, equipment, and other services; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 the Port established an Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to
45 address institutional racism and increase equity, diversity, and inclusion in Port policies,
46 processes, and programs; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, the Duwamish Valley Community (Community) consists of groups or
49 individuals that collectively live, work, play, study, and worship in the neighborhoods of South
50 Park and Georgetown along the Duwamish River who have historically and currently been
51 impacted by economic, racial, and environmental injustices, including the Duwamish People,
52 the first people of Seattle; and experience disproportionately high environmental health and
53 socio-economic burdens; and

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55 **WHEREAS**, the 2013 Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis published by Just Health Action
56 and the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group characterizes the
57 Duwamish Valley Community as experiencing environmental justice issues such as
58 disproportionate exposure to air pollution, lack of greenspace, and high poverty rates
59 contributing to a life expectancy in South Park and Georgetown that is 13 years lower than
60 other communities in Seattle; and

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62 **WHEREAS**, the City of Seattle’s 2017 Preparing for Climate Change Strategy Report
63 identifies this community as one of the communities that will be most impacted by climate
64 change conditions such as extreme heat, rising sea levels, and flooding; and

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66 **WHEREAS**, the Port seeks alignment with the City of Seattle Resolution 31567 and King
67 County Motion 2015-0167 related to the Duwamish Waterway Cleanup and the health of
68 communities adjacent to the Lower Duwamish Waterway, and other public agencies who have
69 recognized historic and present inequities experienced by the Community, and have launched
70 long-term initiatives within their own operations, such as the City of Seattle’s Duwamish Valley
71 Action Plan that addresses environmental justice and equitable development in the community;
72 and

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74 **WHEREAS**, the Port has historic involvement in the Duwamish Valley through Superfund
75 cleanup and remediation as part of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) along with
76 the City of Seattle, King County, and Boeing., and LDWG has collectively invested approximately
77 \$50 million in investigating contamination in the Lower Duwamish waterway, developed
78 approaches for cleanup of the waterway and means to prevent recontamination through
79 source control; and the Port of Seattle has individually already invested nearly \$13 million into
80 the cleanup of Terminal 117 Early Action Area; and

81 **WHEREAS**, the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) and the Port of Seattle have
82 partnered on several initiatives to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases such as the
83 Clean Truck Program, air quality education projects, and the adoption of the Northwest Ports
84 Clean Air Strategy to reduce air emissions from shipping and port operations in the Georgia
85 Basin and Puget Sound airsheds from cargo-handling equipment, rail, harbor craft, ships, and
86 trucks; and

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88 **WHEREAS**, in January 2017 the Port and Duwamish Valley community were selected by
89 the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Ports Initiative to receive a technical
90 assistance grant to pilot a project that facilitated dialogue and engagement with communities
91 experiencing environmental justice issues; and

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93 **WHEREAS**, the pilot project enabled the Port to identify three areas of collaboration and
94 mutual benefit with the Community: capacity building, environmental stewardship, and
95 economic development to prevent continued community displacement; and these three areas,
96 as well as community-based organizations such as the Port Community Action Team (PCAT), are
97 key pillars for sustaining the ongoing partnership; and the Port and has expended over
98 \$450,000 on targeted community programs such as shoreline improvements, increased access
99 to public educational events, and green career pathways; and

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101 **WHEREAS**, the PCAT is an advisory group established in 2017 and consists of Duwamish
102 Valley community members that engage the Port in collaborative action and strategic planning
103 in order to address historical and current disproportionate, cumulative impacts affecting the
104 Duwamish Valley community; and the PCAT provides training and coaching to Port staff on
105 inclusive engagement practices and cultural competency that ensures the effectiveness of
106 achieving the Century Agenda; and

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108 **WHEREAS**, in May 2019, the Port of Seattle Commission authorized the creation of the
109 Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program and directed staff to collaborate with community
110 partners to establish a Community Benefits Commitment that provides shared goals and
111 definitions, a strategy and workplan with actionable items, and an evaluation framework;

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113 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Port of Seattle Commission as follows:

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115 SECTION 1. The Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment as shown in Exhibit
116 A is hereby established.

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118 SECTION 2: The Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment shall be labeled and
119 catalogued as appropriate, together with other Commission Policy Directives, and shall
120 be made readily available for use by Port staff and members of the public as a
121 governance document of the Port of Seattle.

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123 **ADOPTED** by the Port of Seattle Commission at a duly noticed meeting thereof,
124 held this _____ day of _____, 2019, and duly authenticated in open session by the
125 signatures of the Commissioners voting in favor thereof and the seal of the commission.

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Port of Seattle Commission