

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 03-026

Supporting the City of Everett's Monument to the Ten Commandments

WHEREAS, the Washington State Constitution states: "We, the people of the State of Washington, grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties, do ordain this constitution"; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution by supermajority favoring the free exercise of religion and contesting litigation intended to push the Ten Commandments out of public life; and

WHEREAS, Congress endorsed what has long been understood and recognized: "The Ten Commandments have had a significant impact on the development of the fundamental legal principles of Western Civilization" and "the Ten Commandments set forth a code of moral conduct, observance of which is universally acknowledged to promote respect for our system of laws and the good of society"; and

WHEREAS, the same resolution declares: "It is the sense of Congress that - (1) the Ten Commandments are a declaration of fundamental principles that are the cornerstones of a fair and just society; and (2) the public display, including the display in government offices and courthouses, of the Ten Commandments should be permitted"; and

WHEREAS, the important role of a wide variety of religious faiths has long been recognized in shaping American history and culture; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important cornerstones of American freedom has been the respect for all religions, with favoritism shown toward none; and

WHEREAS, American men and women of all faiths are today fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan to promote freedom, including freedom of religion; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this resolution is intended to promote one religion over another; and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit has been filed to force removal of a monument donated to the City of Everett in 1959 containing the Ten Commandments, that has been displayed on the old city hall grounds ever since; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council, representing the people of Snohomish County, desires to express support for the Everett monument, not only for its historic value, but also for the valuable influence the Ten Commandments have had and will continue to have on our local communities and culture; and

WHEREAS, Everett's historical monument containing the Ten Commandments reflects the fundamental honor and dignity of public institutions and the moral underpinnings of those institutions throughout all of Snohomish County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council vigorously support efforts by the City of Everett to maintain its longstanding monument containing the Ten Commandments located outside Old City Hall.

APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2003.

Gary Nelson
Council Chair

John Koster
Councilmember

Kirke Sievers
Councilmember

Dave Gossett
Councilmember

Jeff Sax
Councilmember