

CITY OF REDMOND
RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF REDMOND,
WASHINGTON, SUPPORTING REGIONAL EFFORTS FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROFESSIONAL MULTIPURPOSE
CRICKET FACILITY AND RELATED INFRASTRUCURE TO
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH, ADULT AND
PROFESSIONAL CRICKET

WHEREAS, cricket is the second most popular sport in the world, yet has limited presence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are at least an estimated 20 million cricket fans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, cricket is a popular sport globally with multi-cultural appeal for residents, workers and children across Redmond and King County; and

WHEREAS, King County has a large population of foreign-born residents, including approximately 100,000 foreign-born residents from cricket playing nations in South Asia, the United Kingdom, and Oceania based on 2019 data; and

WHEREAS, based on 2019 data, the percentage of foreign-born residents from South Asian countries was 15.21% for the entire King County and 43.44% in the City of Redmond; and

WHEREAS, the lack of infrastructure and amenities for cricket and other emerging sports in King County represents an equity issue, especially as the county continues to grow and become more diverse and multi-cultural; and

WHEREAS, thousands of adult, youth and recreational cricketers are currently underserved by existing recreational facilities in King County; and

WHEREAS, King County is home to hundreds of exceptionally talented youth cricketers who would benefit from greater access to facilities and opportunities in our region; and

WHEREAS, King County is being considered as one of the founding locations for a Major League Cricket team for the inaugural 2023 season, and the availability of a professional cricket facility is likely to be a determinative factor as to whether King County is selected as a founding location; and

WHEREAS, a professional multipurpose cricket facility located in King County would be an attractive option for tourists and cricketers from around the world alike and promote community building for residents across our region; and

WHEREAS, a professional multipurpose cricket facility should provide opportunities for youth, adult and professional cricketers; and

WHEREAS, a professional multipurpose cricket facility can generate significant local economic impact through ancillary community spending, event spending, and venue construction, and could also be used a venue for other community events held by King County, including concerts; and

WHEREAS, the United States will be co-hosting the 2024 Cricket World Cup for the first time and King County could host matches if a facility was available, generating significant economic impact, tourism and a worldwide television audience of more than a billion people; and

WHEREAS, a regional coalition of proponents including the City of Redmond, Seattle Sports Commission, Visit Bellevue, OneRedmond, the Bellevue Chamber, and local employers have all engaged in conversations about bringing Major League Cricket to our region; and

WHEREAS, regional parks staff from Redmond, Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah and King County are engaged in efforts to address the need for regional cricket facilities through collaboration and evaluating opportunities for a regional approach through regular meetings and planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, at their November 1st city council meeting, the City of Bellevue passed a resolution to evaluate the opportunity to redevelop and repurpose a Bellevue Utilities-owned property within Marymoor Park for cricket; and

WHEREAS, Marymoor Park is one of the jewels of the King County Parks system and would benefit from adding a world-class cricket facility; and

WHEREAS, adding additional cricket facilities to the Eastside would align with and further Redmond's and King County Parks' equity and social justice goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

A. Redmond supports efforts to evaluate the opportunity to bring Major League Cricket to our region and the development of a multipurpose cricket facility.

B. Redmond is also committed to supporting development of world class cricket infrastructure in the region to support the growth of cricket and provide greater opportunities for adult and youth cricketers in King County.

C. The City of Redmond will continue to work with King County and the City of Bellevue to help make the envisioned Marymoor Cricket project a success.

ADOPTED by the Redmond City Council on this _____ day of _____, 2022.

CITY OF REDMOND

ANGELA BIRNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL XANTHOS, MMC, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
RESOLUTION NO.