

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1991, an overwhelming majority of 92% of Ukrainian voters approved the Act of Declaration of Ukraine's Independence made by Verkhovna Rada on August 24, 1991; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine is a peaceful country known as a breadbasket of Europe that has never imposed military threats on other countries; and

WHEREAS, Ukrainians are an independent and freedom-loving people who have made efforts to develop as a democratic state and to be protected from threats to their independence including military threats from Russia; and

WHEREAS, recent polls indicate over 90% of Ukraine people want to become part of the European Union and over 60% want to join NATO; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2014, the Russian Federation started a war against Ukraine by invading their independent state, proceeding with ongoing attempts to annex Crimea, engaging in conflict in the Donbas region, and threatening freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov; and

WHEREAS, the Ukrainian people have demonstrated great courage and tenacity in fighting the invading Russian army; and

WHEREAS, more than 11 million people are believed to have fled their homes in Ukraine since the conflict began, including 6.5 million internally displaced and 5.1 million who have left for neighboring countries; and

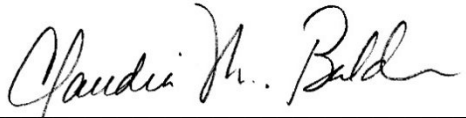
WHEREAS, there is growing evidence that Russia has committed war crimes and genocide in Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, Ukrainians, including women and children, have historically immigrated to King County seeking opportunities and to escape hardships at home;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council

- (1) commend the courage and resolve shown by the Ukrainian people in their pursuit of sovereignty and democracy; and
- (2) proclaim support for a secure, democratic, and independent Ukraine, free to choose its own leaders and future; and
- (3) condemn the illegal military invasion of Ukraine, the attempted annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, and the violence fomented by Russian proxies in eastern Ukraine, an active conflict that continues in 2022; and
- (4) call upon our national government to continue to stand with the Ukrainian people and take additional actions aimed at ending the war and supporting the continued sovereignty of the Ukrainian people; and
- (5) welcome refugees from Ukraine to our county.

DATED this third day of May, 2022.



Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair



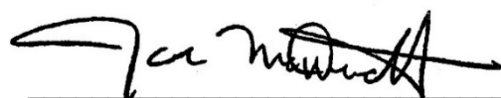
Rod Dembowski, District One



Sarah Perry, District Three



Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Vice Chair



Joe McDermott, District Eight



Girmay Zahiray, District Two, Council Vice Chair



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine