

SUSTAINABLE SEATTLE HAPPINESS INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence states that we are endowed with “unalienable rights... among these are life, liberty and *the pursuit of happiness*” and the happiness, or well-being, of Seattle residents is of utmost importance to the city; and

WHEREAS The idea of measuring people’s happiness or satisfaction with the way their lives are going is an important tool that will help to create not only good public policy but also a healthy community; and

WHEREAS The City of Seattle understands the importance of creating a broad assessment of the happiness of its residents, using both objective and subjective indicators of well-being; and

WHEREAS Sustainable Seattle’s Happiness Initiative’s survey data, objective indicators data, and town meeting reports provide valuable information about well-being or happiness by measuring it along nine domains; and

WHEREAS Sustainable Seattle has been a world leader in the establishment of regional sustainability indicators for 20 years and the Happiness Initiative is a project of Sustainable Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is internationally known for its leadership and innovation in the continuing effort to promote a healthy society that encourages the wellbeing of all peoples; and

WHEREAS, The City Council acknowledge our role and responsibility for the happiness or well being of our citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Seattle City Council

The Seattle City Council endorses the Happiness Initiative, led by Sustainable Seattle.

The Seattle City Council is looking forward to seeing the results of the Happiness Initiative's survey and objective indicators.

The Seattle City Council encourages members of the public to take the publicly-available survey and encourages efforts to conduct a random sampling of our population using the survey to ensure that survey results are representative of the population.

The Seattle City Council encourages organizing local town meetings in libraries, community centers, and other public gathering spaces in Seattle neighborhoods, where residents discuss the survey and objective data, identify actions they are taking and want to take, and recommend action ideas for neighborhood organizations, city agencies and the City Council.

The Seattle City Council intends to consult the available happiness data and the recommendations from these town meetings as it pursues future policy options in a time of scarce resources.

Members of the Seattle City Council look forward to possible participation in the town meetings and in other activities of the Happiness Initiative.

Council President Richard Conlin

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

Councilmember Tim Burgess

Councilmember Sally J. Clark

Councilmember Jean Godden

Councilmember Bruce Harrell

Councilmember Nick Licata

Councilmember Michael O'Brien

Councilmember Tom Rasmussen