Item Number: 8a motion

Meeting Date: February 25, 2020 Revised: February 24, 2020

**MOTION 2020-05:** 1 A MOTION OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION 2 3 4 supporting the recommendations of the Maritime 5 Secondary Education Advisory Group that call for the 6 development of a maritime and ocean sciences high school. 7 8 **PROPOSED** 9 FEBRUARY 25, 2020 10 11 **INTRODUCTION** 

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39 40 Booming maritime industries in Washington state lack the qualified workers to meet the region's needs and the inclusive work environments to support the industry long-term. The average age of the state's maritime workforce is 54, the majority of whom are white males, owing to structural inequities that have kept women and people of color on the sidelines.

A high percentage of maritime workers in the Puget Sound region will retire in the next ten years. Recruiting young workers to replace them is essential to maintaining a vibrant maritime economy in our region. With competitive pay and benefits and good prospects for long term employment, maritime jobs should be highly coveted. However, many current and future workers are unaware of or lack equitable access to the opportunities in the industry.

In July of 2019, the Port of Seattle entered into a contract for consulting services with Architects of Achievement to create a strategic action plan, to generate stakeholder engagement, and to produce a final case statement encapsulating the findings of that work. The case statement outlines the consensus of the advisory group formed from key participants. It calls for a public secondary maritime education institution and programs in the Seattle area. This effort was funded by a \$150,000 appropriation approved by the port commission in 2019.

On February 11, 2020, the final case statement "A Changing Tide," was presented to the port commission.

**TEXT OF THE MOTION** 

The Port of Seattle Commission hereby supports the recommendations of the Maritime Secondary Education Advisory Group that call for the development of a maritime and ocean sciences high school. The outcomes were presented to the commission on February 11, 2020, and outlined in the final case statement titled "A Changing Tide."

"A Changing Tide" was created by a diverse group of tribal, community, labor, education, and industry leaders from the Seattle area and calls for the development of this school to equip students who are furthest from economic opportunity and climate-adaptive, new-economy jobs in the Puget Sound region.

The Port of Seattle shall facilitate efforts to convene regional stakeholders, with an emphasis on South King County communities and school districts, maritime education non-profit organizations, labor and industry, and aligned government agencies, in pursuit of the mission and vision, and supported by the guiding principles identified in "A Changing Tide."

## **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION**

The case statement recommends the development of a maritime and ocean sciences high school and reflects the interest from the Duwamish Valley youth residents to locate the high school in their community. This recommendation aligns with the port's Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment Policy Directive. A goal of this policy is to support economic prosperity in place with anti-displacement solutions in the Duwamish Valley Community that create equitable access to training, jobs, career pathways, and port-related economic opportunities and requires the port to:

- Invest in youth workforce development programs that prepare youth in the community for opportunities in port-related career pathways
- Provide outreach and career building trainings to youth
- Identify opportunities for youth to participate in port-related trades and experiential learning activities
- Partner with educational programs that link youth to career connected learning opportunities across all port-related industries

 The Seattle region has created more new wealth than most other metropolitan areas in the country, while area schools offer few educational career pathways into maritime careers and marginalized communities. Students of color make up more than 70 percent of students in the residential areas, like the Duwamish Valley, closest to many of the region's maritime industries. Ideally, these populations should enjoy commensurate representation in the port-related workforce. Support for the development of a maritime and ocean sciences high school along the Duwamish Waterway supports the port's commitment to the Duwamish Valley Community.