

1 THE HONORABLE JIM ROGERS  
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5  
6 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
7 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

8 IN RE THE MATTER OF RECALL  
9 CHARGES AGAINST CITY OF SEATTLE  
10 COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT  
11 (SAWANT)

No. 20-2-13314-1 SEA

12 **DECLARATION OF KSHAMA  
13 SAWANT**

14 I, Kshama Sawant, declare and state as follows:

15 1. I am over the age of 18 years and am competent to make this declaration which is  
16 based upon my personal knowledge.

17 2. I was first elected to the Seattle City Council in 2013, backed by Socialist  
18 Alternative, of which I am a member. When I was sworn into office on January 6, 2014, I  
19 became the first socialist to win a seat on the City Council since 1877 and the first to win a  
20 citywide election in Seattle since 1916.

21 3. After assuming office, I helped to champion a successful effort to increase  
22 Seattle's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. I have also advocated for an income tax on wealthy  
23 residents of Seattle, rent control, and police reform. In 2017 and 2018, I helped lead the push to  
24 institute a big business tax which would have taxed Seattle's largest corporations on a per-  
employee basis in order to fund public affordable housing and homelessness services. Amazon,  
the largest private employer in Seattle, responded to the initial passage of the tax by the Council

1 in 2018 by funding what became a successful campaign to obtain repeal of the tax ordinance  
2 shortly thereafter. Subsequently, in 2020, I spearheaded the “Tax Amazon” campaign that led to  
3 passage of a big business tax four times larger than the one previously passed and repealed.

4 4. I have attended many Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests in Seattle, including  
5 during 2020. Among these, I have attended BLM demonstrations on public property, in a  
6 neighborhood believed to be more-or-less where Mayor Durkan lives (chosen as a protest target  
7 for being a predominantly white and wealthy neighborhood, as well as the assumed vicinity of  
8 the Mayor’s residence), and also in Seattle City Council District 3. I did not lead the protest in  
9 Mayor Durkan’s neighborhood nor most of the other BLM protests I attended, in which I simply  
10 participated like any other private citizen would.

11 5. I observed that dozens of BLM protests were organized between late May and  
12 early July, 2020. I further observed that the demonstrations featured a variety of protest tactics as  
13 well as participants who varied widely in terms of age, race, profession, and other demographic  
14 factors.

15 6. I, along with many others, have addressed crowds of BLM demonstrators at the  
16 Seattle Department’s East Precinct, in the Windermere neighborhood, and at Seattle City Hall.

17 7. I do not know, nor have I ever known, the home address of Seattle Mayor Jenny  
18 Durkan.

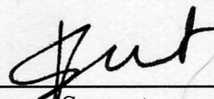
19 8. On June 9, 2020, I gathered with other BLM marchers at Seattle City Hall. Nearly  
20 everyone who was gathered there wore masks. We held an hour-long, peaceful rally inside of the  
21 City Hall building. The speeches offered on that day, including one by me, criticized the inaction  
22 of Seattle’s local government officials in stemming police violence. Some speakers, including  
23 myself, opined that City Hall was a good target for demonstrations because they believed that the  
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1 City Council, the Mayor, and other public servants have a responsibility to address police  
2 brutality.

3 9. City Hall was open to the public on June 9, 2020, and no rules that I am aware of  
4 prohibit me from inviting personal guests of my choosing into the building with me at any time I  
5 choose. My fellow councilmembers also invite guests, there have been nighttime rallies in City  
6 Hall previously, and I am additionally aware that the City Hall has, until recently, hosted an  
7 overnight homeless shelter.

8 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the  
9 foregoing statements are true and correct.

10 SIGNED at Seattle, Washington, this 11th day of September, 2020.

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13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Kshama Sawant

1 **DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

2 I, Jennifer Woodward, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of  
3 Washington, that on the date set forth below I served the foregoing document, in the manner  
4 noted, on the following parties:

PARTY/COUNSEL	DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS
Jennifer Atchison King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office 900 King County Administration Building 500 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Seattle, WA 98104 <a href="mailto:Jennifer.atchison@kingcounty.com">Jennifer.atchison@kingcounty.com</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-Service
John McKay Chris Morley Jordan Harris 920 Fifth Avenue, suite 3300 Seattle, WA 98101 <a href="mailto:johnmckay@dwt.com">johnmckay@dwt.com</a> <a href="mailto:chrismorley@dwt.com">chrismorley@dwt.com</a> <a href="mailto:jordanharris@dwt.com">jordanharris@dwt.com</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-Service

15 DATED this 11th day of September, 2020, at Shoreline, Washington.

17 By: *Jennifer Woodward*  
18 Jennifer Woodward, Paralegal