



KING COUNTY EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Working toward fairness and opportunity for all

Ngozi T. Oleru, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Health Services Division
Public Health Seattle & King County



King County

King County

- 1.9 million people – one-third of state's population
- 39 cities
- 19 school districts
- 2,134 square miles of land - size of Delaware

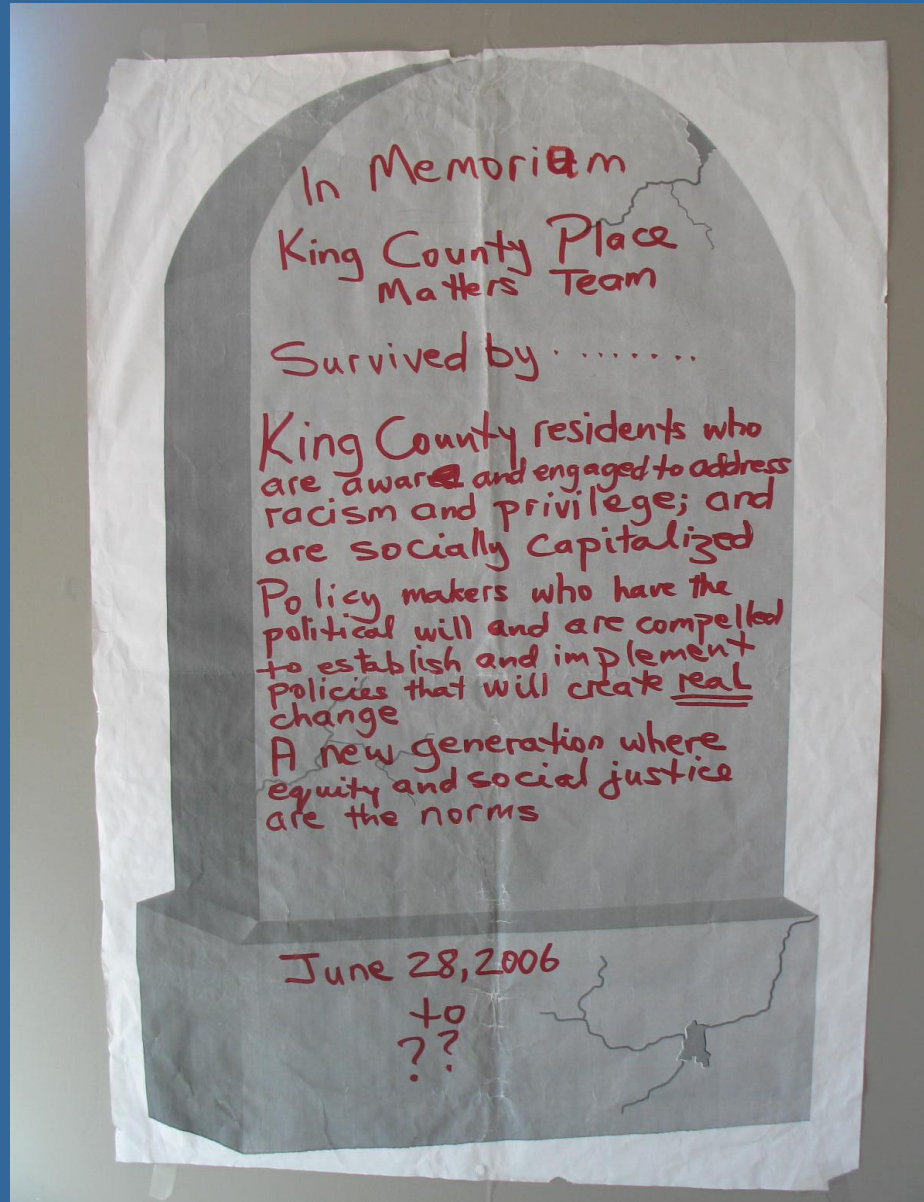


History

- Several staff and leadership of the Health Department went through undoing Institutional Racism in 2005-2006
- 2006: King County one of 16 Place Matters teams sponsored by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Health Policy Institute to improve health equity
- Publication of the Dellums Commission Report



History



In Memoriam
King County Place
Matters Team

Survived by

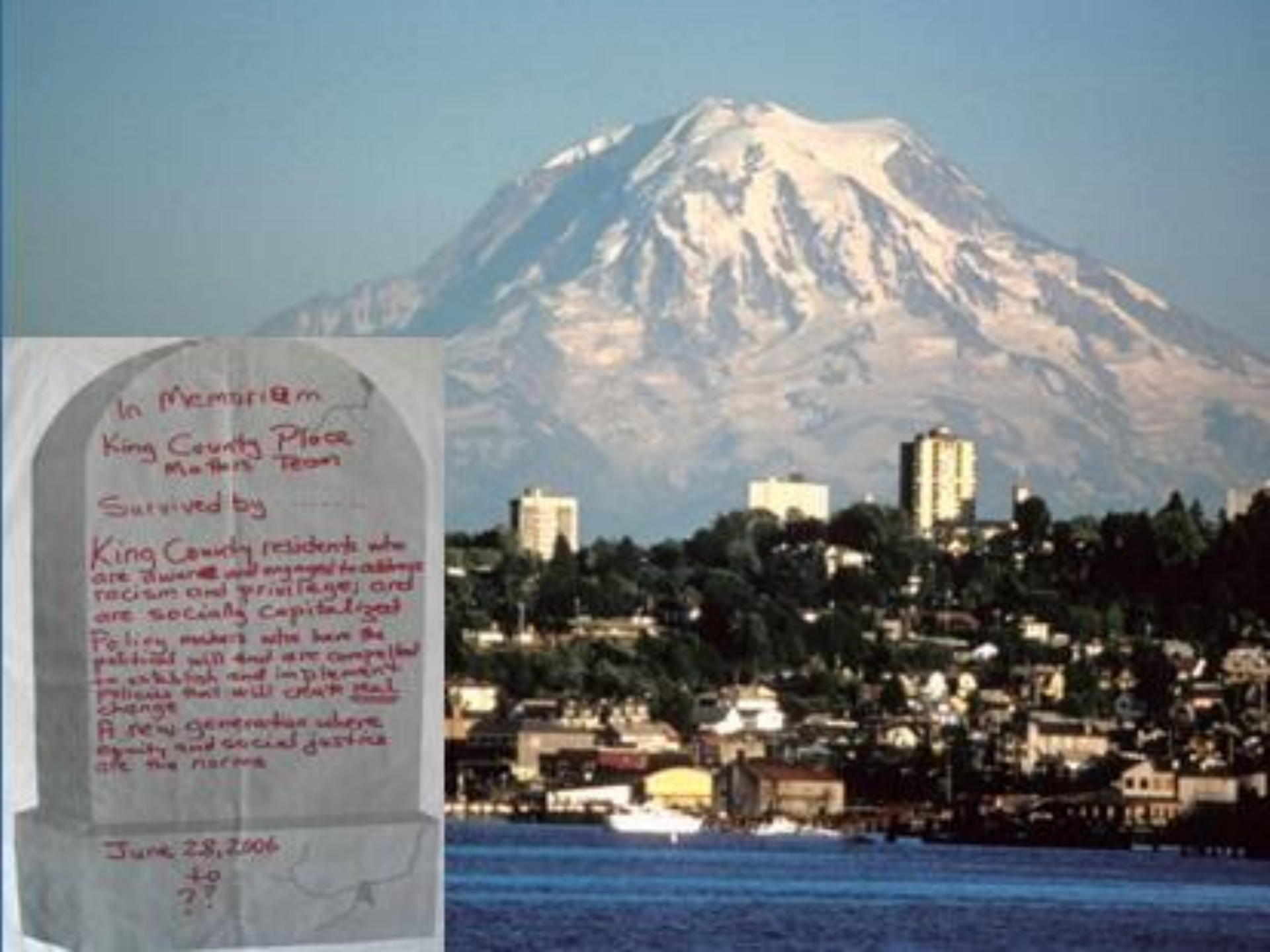
King County residents who
are aware and engaged to address
racism and privilege; and
are socially capitalized

Policy makers who have the
political will and are compelled
to establish and implement
policies that will create real
change

A new generation where
equity and social justice
are the norms

June 28, 2006

to
??
.



In Memoriam
King County Place
Mothers Team

Survived by

King County residents who
are aware and engaged to address
racism and privilege; and
are socially capitalized
Policy makers who have the
political will and are compelled
to establish and implement
policies that will create real
change
A new generation where
equity and social justice
are the norms

June 28, 2006

to
??

History

- February 2008: Launch of the King County Equity & Social Justice Initiative
- Support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for planning and community engagement
- Unnatural Causes as a resource

... working toward fairness and
opportunity for all

What is Equity?

A system of fairness



“All people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential.”

What is inequity?

Differences that are...



...Systematic

...Patterned

...Unfair

“ Differences in well-being that disadvantage one individual or group in favor of another. These differences are systematic, patterned and unfair and can be changed. Inequities are not random; they are caused by past and current decisions, systems of power and privilege, policies and the implementation of those policies.”

What influences inequity?

Social factors +

Economic factors +

Environmental factors

= *Determinants*
of equity

The “Stream”

Societal Level

Community
& Policy Level

Individual &
Family Level



Political structures
& institutional
practices that
assure fairness &
opportunity for all

Social, economic, &
physical conditions
that allow people to
reach their full
potential

Services for
individuals and
families to treat
problems

**Community
partnerships**

**Delivery of
county services**

**Equity &
Social Justice
in King County**

**Policy planning and
decision making**

Health → Equity

Language is Important

Health Disparities → Health Inequities

Health Dept → All Departments

**Equity & Social Justice → Fairness &
Opportunity**