



# Seattle City Council Repeals Tax on Jobs to Benefit Homeless, after Big Biz Applies Pressure

Amazon, Starbucks and other large employers were able to pressure Seattle's City Council into overturning the socialist "head tax" of \$275 on each employee per year that was expected to raise \$50 million per year. The money was to help the growing homeless population. Amazon has more than 45,000 employees, and the tax would have cost the company \$12,375,000.

From the Wall Street Journal:

"The tax would have, starting next year, levied \$275 per employee on companies with more than \$20 million in annual revenue, or about 3% of Seattle-based businesses, according to the City Council. It was projected to raise about \$47 million a year, to be spent on affordable-housing and homeless services."

From KIRO Radio:

The Seattle City Council both passed and repealed its head tax in less than a month. The legislation itself and the activity surrounding it shows that it was about much more than the head tax, according to [KIRO Nights](#). It was all about Seattle

residents' relationship with the city council.

The Monday vote was 7-2 and appears to be the result of a private council meeting far from the reach of Kwasha Sawant. She alleged the repeal was the result of a [backroom betrayal](#).

"I think for the first time we saw true leadership coming from Mayor Jenny Durkan," said KIRO Radio's Zak Burns. "She gets this meeting to happen. She convinced the council members that this head tax wasn't a good idea. It's not worth angering an overwhelming majority of the businesses and citizens here."

Previously expected to raise \$47 million annually, the tax would have applied to more than 500 businesses and cost them \$275 per employee every year. A repeal campaign quickly sprang up after it passed on May 14. The [No Tax on Jobs Coalition](#) gathered 40,000 signatures and included the support of companies like Amazon, Dick's Drive-In, and Zillow, among others.

"I think Mayor Durkan realizes that all this anger had little to do with the head tax," Zak said. "This was a referendum on the city council themselves. Here they are asking for more money when they have no proven track record on past spending in terms of success."

Council members Teresa Mosqueda and Sawant were the only no votes, not entirely a surprise considering that Sawant said that "Jeff Bezos is our enemy" before the vote. Head tax supporters shouted chants that caused some council members to walk out after voting.

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# Berkeley City Council Rings in Agenda 21, Declaring 'Climate Emergency' and Call for Population Control

The Berkeley City Council unanimously voted in a plan for climate regulations and put on record their desire to "humanely stabilize population", a euphemism for depopulation, which is the ultimate goal of Agenda 21. The city urges surrounding municipalities and the state of California to buy into its hysteria and to impose harsh regulations that will affect energy, building, the electricity grid and transportation.

The California city that was home to 1960s radicals and known for excessively liberal politics declared a "climate emergency" on Tuesday evening, backing policies to "humanely stabilize" the human population.

The Berkeley City Council unanimously [voted](#) to mobilize other California governments "to initiate a just local, state, national, and global climate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate."

The council's resolution, introduced by Council Member Cheryl Davila, warned that man-made global warming was "driving a global fresh water scarcity crisis and the sixth mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of life on

earth for the next 10 million years.” The resolution calls for a World War II-level mobilization effort to fight global warming.

Davila’s resolution claims, “The community of Berkeley and surrounding counties, despite well-meaning efforts, have disproportionately contributed to dangerous greenhouse gas emissions and thus must substantially curtail use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions on behalf of the larger planetary community to enable a rapid, just transition to a stable climate.”

“Reversing global warming and restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at wartime speed, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement safe measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt warming in the near-term,” the resolution claims.

To accomplish this, “requires an effort to preserve and restore half Earth’s biodiversity in interconnected wildlife corridors and to humanely stabilize population,” the resolution claims.

Davila’s resolution also calls for “a shift toward a climate-resilient society and culture that prioritize conservation, community, and mutual aid over consumerism and narcissism.”

The resolution’s main goal is to become a “carbon sink” by 2030, meaning Berkeley would emit net negative greenhouse gas emissions by that time.

Environmental activists were thrilled with Berkeley’s decision to declare a “climate emergency.” Writer Eric Holthaus [tweeted](#) it “sets the new standard for what those of us with means should be striving for at this critical moment in Earth history.”

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## **A Ticking Time Bomb: MS-13 Gang Threatens a Middle School 10 Miles from the White House**

Riverdale, Maryland: The brutal Central American MS-13 gang is recruiting children from the William Wirt Middle School, located just 10 miles from the White House. Fights occur almost daily at the school, knives and a BB gun have been confiscated, and some parents are afraid their children will be killed. A 14-year old girl reported that she was raped by a gang member. Police had been called to the school 74 times since the school year started. The school's population jumped by 50% in recent years due to the surge of immigration from 2012 to 2016 under Obama's unaccompanied children program. Most MS-13 gangs are concentrated in Long Island, Boston, DC and Houston.

The boys had once been friends before MS-13 began recruiting one of them. Now, as other students streamed to class one April morning at William Wirt Middle School in Riverdale, Md., the two teens squared off in the third-story bathroom – a fight captured by another student on his cellphone.

The MS-13 recruit threw a punch at his former friend's head. His opponent ducked and tackled the 15-year-old, their sneakers squealing as they tumbled to the green tile floor.

"I like that," someone shouted off-camera as the recruit tried to cover his head.

"That look like it hurt," someone wrote under the video, which was uploaded to Instagram on April 19 and has been viewed more than 400 times.

Gang-related fights are now a near-daily occurrence at Wirt, where a small group of suspected MS-13 members at the overwhelmingly Hispanic school in Prince George's County throw gang signs, sell drugs, draw gang graffiti and aggressively recruit students recently arrived from Central America, according to more than two dozen teachers, parents and students. Most of those interviewed asked not to be identified for fear of losing their jobs or being targeted by MS-13.

Although administrators deny Wirt has a gang problem, the situation inside the aging, overcrowded building has left some teachers so afraid that they refuse to be alone with their students. Many said they had repeatedly reported incidents involving suspected gang members to administrators, only to be ignored – claims supported by documents obtained by The Washington Post.

"Teachers feel threatened but aren't backed up. Students feel threatened but aren't protected," one educator said. "The school is a ticking time bomb."

The gang's presence at Wirt comes at a time when the Trump administration has declared war on MS-13, and communities throughout the country are confronting a surge in MS-13-related violence.

Nearly a dozen parents told The Post that they were worried about gang activity at the school, which is 10 miles from the

White House. Many said they were intent on transferring their kids. Several said they were scared their children would be killed.

One eighth-grader said she had been raped in the fall by a schoolmate in MS-13 – an attack that took place off school property and that she reported to police but then recanted out of fear of the gang. Prince George's investigators concluded the report was unfounded, but the girl said she now lives in fear the gang will stab her as she leaves school.

Rhonda Simley, the principal at Wirt, declined repeated requests for an interview.

"The principal is aware of concerns about gangs in the community, but has not experienced any problems in school," John White, a spokesman for the county school system, wrote in an email.

Prince George's police, which have an officer stationed at the school, declined to discuss the allegations of gang activity.

"This is their house, so we're going to defer to school leadership," said police spokeswoman Jennifer Donelan. "If school security isn't telling us about something, then we don't know."

As of May 1, police had been called to the school 74 times this school year, according to a police tally requested by The Post.

Five students had been arrested for assault, drug possession and bringing a BB gun into the building, White said in an interview.

Although teachers estimate that there are only a dozen or so MS-13 members at the school, other students have banded together to resist them, leading to an arms race of sorts. Teachers said at least four knives and four BB guns were found

at Wirt this year, although White put the tally at two knives and one BB gun.

“If someone doesn’t do something soon,” said the eighth-grade girl’s father, “there’s going to be a tragedy at that school.”

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