



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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March 26, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a Pretrial Reform Workgroup Report in response to Ordinance 18835 Proviso P3, Section 19, and a proposed motion which would accept the report.

As required, the enclosed report provides findings and recommendations from a workgroup of King County criminal justice system stakeholders convened by the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget. The Pretrial Justice Institute provided the required non-county subject matter expert recommendations to reduce the number of nonviolent pretrial adults held in King County correctional facilities.

King County is a state and national leader in applying the presumption of innocence to pretrial defendants. Yet, despite that on a per capita basis King County has among the nation's lowest incarceration rates for adults, there is room for improvement. The proviso workgroup developed recommendations related to providing services to individuals pretrial, ensuring court appearances, and improving criminal justice data reporting capability. Notably, not all strategies were equally supported by all workgroup members, though the workgroup identified and agreed on several recommendations that could be employed or further explored to reduce the use of pretrial detention.

The findings and recommendations to reduce King County's pretrial population and provide pretrial services to address failure to appear and recidivism support the King County Strategic Plan safety and justice goal to "provide for a safe and just community through proactive law enforcement and an accessible and fair justice system, while implementing alternatives to divert people from the criminal justice system."

It is estimated that this report required 450 staff hours to produce costing \$39,250.

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Thank you for your review of this report and consideration of the accompanying motion. I look forward to working with the Council, Superior Court, and our other legal system partners to improve services to pretrial defendants and reduce recidivism.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "KC" or similar mark at the end.

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget