



**King County**

**Girmay Zahilay**

King County Executive

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January 22, 2026

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

Dear Councilmember Perry:

On January 6, 2026, I transmitted a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, confirm my appointment of Stephen Heard as Chief Information Officer (CIO) and director of the King County Department of Information Technology (KCIT) consistent with King County Code 2.16.110(E)(1)(b). This letter transmits the enclosed materials that comprise the full set of confirmation documents as established by code and practice.

On Friday, December 12, 2025, I appointed Mr. Heard as the CIO and KCIT Director, effective January 3, 2026. Mr. Heard has been successfully serving as the acting director of KCIT since January 6, 2025. During this time, he has supported King County employees, residents, and other government agencies with a wide array of innovative technology services. Prior to serving as acting KCIT Director, Mr. Heard served as Chief Technology Officer for the County. In this role, Mr. Heard partnered with county business leaders to target cost-effective and innovative technology solutions. His teams have consistently executed key technology improvements that strengthened the resiliency of platforms that are foundational to King County's digital public services.

Prior to his county service, Mr. Heard worked in the private technology sector, including technical and leadership roles within the financial services and consumer products industries. His background and recognized leadership skills make him uniquely qualified to serve as King County's Chief Information Officer and lead the Department of Information Technology.

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It is my pleasure to request the Council's confirmation of Stephen Heard as KCIT Director. If your staff have questions regarding this matter, please contact Megan Pedersen, Chief People Officer, Office of the Executive, at 206-263-2898.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Girmay Zahilay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

for

Girmay Zahilay  
King County Executive

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council  
        Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council  
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive  
Jasmine Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive  
Megan Pedersen, Chief People Officer, Office of the Executive  
Stephen Heard, Director Designee, Department of Information Technology