



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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September 15, 2023

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

As called for by Ordinance 19546, Section 54, Proviso P1, this letter transmits the first King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) Independent Monitoring Team Report on confinement of juveniles in County detention facilities. The enclosed report covers the period of April 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Also included is a proposed Motion, that, if approved, would acknowledge receipt of the report.

While this is the first monitor report called for by Ordinance 19546, the enclosed report builds on four previous independent monitor reports pursuant to Ordinance 18637 and Ordinance 19210. The last report, which I submitted to the Council in August 2022, recognized the strains on DAJD resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including the impact of limited in-person programming on youth in custody and DAJD staff. That report also focused on staff turnover in both the juvenile and adult divisions of DAJD and addressed the effect that high levels of staff vacancies have on programming and the use of restrictive housing. It also provided an update regarding progress made toward implementing prior recommendations made by the monitoring team.

This report details DAJD's implementation of Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 13.22 regarding juvenile solitary confinement, including continuing the process of updating detention operations aligning with Ordinance 18637 and RCW 13.22. The report focuses on the launch of DAJD's Jail Management System and how the system has affected the process of collecting information about restrictive housing. Finally, the report discusses DAJD's efforts to address challenges in recruiting and retaining Juvenile Detention Officers and Corrections Officers, and the impact of these efforts on persons in custody.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion.

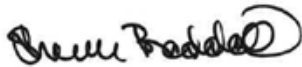
The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

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If your staff have questions, please contact Diana Joy, Chief of Administration, DAJD, at 206-263-2769.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Allen Nance, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD)

Steve Larsen, Deputy Director, DAJD

Diana Joy, Chief of Administration, DAJD