



Superior Court of the State of Washington for King County

King County Courthouse
516 3rd Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104
M.S. KCC-SC-0203

January 4, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits the report describing expenditures related to improving language access for both petitioners and respondents of protection orders as called for by Ordinance 19546 Section 35, Proviso P2, and a proposed motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report. In consultation with the Executive, we respectfully submit these items directly to the Council for review.

As requested, the enclosed report outlines language access improvements to the civil protection order process, and associated expenditures of funds designated by ER 2 and Proviso P2 of the Department of Judicial Administration budget. The report includes a summary of best practices for providing non-English speaking participants with court information, a summary of protection order resources developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for the non-English speaking population, information on how the Clerk's Office makes AOC resources easily accessible for in-person and online protection order participants, a description of language access improvements made using ER 2 funding, and a description of efforts to ensure that participants are informed of the language supports available to them.

The enclosed report demonstrates the shared commitment of the King County Superior Court and the Department of Judicial Administration to improving accessibility in the civil protection order process. Language access improvements made to the civil protection order process both directly, and via interdepartmental fund-sharing, are expected to better support members of King County's non-English speaking communities. Improvements include the development of new translated materials, revision of existing translated materials to improve accessibility, changes to the Clerk's Office website and the e-submission portal that better support non-English speaking CPO participants, and the addition of new supports for in-person customers.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. We look forward to continuing to work with the Council to assure that the civil protection order services supported by the King County Superior Court and the Department of Judicial Administration advance our common goal of improving access to the justice system.

Sincerely,



JUDGE PATRICK OISHI
Presiding Judge

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
 Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive