



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

November 6, 2024

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 P2, as amended by Ordinance 19633, Section 44, Proviso P2, this letter transmits a final report on the hiring, vacancies, and separations of corrections officers and corrections sergeants in the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD). The enclosed report covers the time period of July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

In 2021, the DAJD began to experience significant attrition of corrections officers. Despite increases in hiring, over the past two years DAJD has generally maintained an average vacancy rate of 20 percent, or about 100 positions. Over the course of this year the vacancy rate has dropped to 14 percent.

DAJD's attrition is not unique to King County. A survey published in September 2023 by the [Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards](#) identified a vacancy rate for corrections officers in Washington jails of over 20 percent, with some jails operating with almost 40 percent of positions unfilled.

DAJD continues to face significant delays in scheduling new hires for training at the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC). However, in its [2024 Supplemental Budget](#), the CJTC added one additional 36-seat Corrections Officer Academy (COA) class in fiscal year 2024, and nine additional classes in fiscal year 2025. King County corrections officers hired in September 2024 will wait of seven months to attend the COA, down from the 25-month wait prior to the addition of the classes.

While the additional classes are sufficient to cover the statewide backlog of currently hired corrections officers who have not yet attended the COA, they are not sufficient for the number of vacancies still existing statewide. Notably, the CJTC budget does not maintain the increase in the number of annual COA classes held past 2025. CJTC has proposed a total of eight annual classes for the 2026-27 Governor's Proposed Budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. If your staff have questions, please contact Diana Joy, Chief of Administration, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, at 206-263-2769.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

November 6, 2024

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Badda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular flourish at the end.

for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Allen Nance, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Steve Larsen, Deputy Director, DAJD

Diana Joy, Chief of Administration, DAJD