



**King County**

**Dow Constantine**

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September 30, 2021

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 plan for achieving zero youth detention and for instituting a strategic planning process for the future of secure juvenile detention at the Children and Family Justice Center as called for by Ordinance 19210, Section 50, Proviso P3, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 31, Proviso P3. Also included is a proposed Motion that, if passed, would approve the report.

The enclosed report provides a description of the process that will be used by the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) to select the strategic planning consultant(s). In addition, the report describes the types of qualifications and experience required of the selected consultant or consultants; the planned scope of work for the consultant's engagement with King County, including community involvement; deliverables; and a proposed timeline for the completion of the consultant's final report.

This body of work centers community and calls for on-going, robust, and authentic community engagement. The report outlines initial community and stakeholder engagement efforts held to date with community service providers, youth advocates, detained youth, justice system practitioners, elected officials, and national experts in legal system reform. The report further notes that DAJD staff met with Councilmembers to gather their community engagement recommendations.

The project approach outlined in the report calls for the establishment of an advisory committee to be comprised of representatives from community, service providers, youth advocates, Superior Court, Prosecuting Attorneys' Office, Department of Public Defense, education, public health, labor organizations, local law enforcement, and philanthropy. Community representatives include those with lived experience with the juvenile legal system, including parents and youth. In addition, DAJD will leverage the expertise and guidance of existing bodies such as, but not limited to, the Children and Youth Advisory Board.

The planned project advisory committee will advise the County on an array of project related matters, including identifying stakeholders for engagement; developing the consultant request for applications/qualifications/proposals and review/evaluation of submitted responses; recommending engagement strategies; and identifying potential solutions to barriers and challenges. Members will participate in community meetings and serve as community resources for the project work.

This report furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government. It is estimated that this report required approximately 200 staff hours, costing approximately \$14,000.

Together, we are stepping into the pioneering work of eliminating secure detention for juveniles. This uncharted effort is one in a series of actions we have undertaken in the last 18 months to reimagine elements of the criminal legal system while centering equity and rebuilding public trust. From transitioning the King County Sheriff from an elected to an appointed position, to rethinking fare enforcement on public transit, to declaring racism as a public health crisis, King County is dedicated to undoing the burdens of systemic racism, and ensuring every person has the opportunity to thrive.

If your staff have any questions, please contact John Diaz, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, at 206-263-3669.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Janine Weihe, Interim Chief of Staff  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive  
John Diaz, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention