



King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay

Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

July 7, 2026

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

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would amend the King County Code (KCC) to establish requirements for a permit review performance report due to the Council. Approval of this proposed legislation would require the Executive to transmit a report regarding the Department of Local Services (DLS) Permitting Division's (Permitting's) permit review performance by June 30, 2027, and June 30 every year thereafter.

The report will include permit review performance data required to be submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce in accordance with Chapter 36.70B Revised Code of Washington (RCW); timeline performance results for all permit types that are subject to review timelines required by RCW 36.70B.080, beyond new lot creation for housing and multiunit construction projects; timeline performance results to date for building permits that are subject to review timelines required by KCC 20.20.100, but not subject to RCW 36.70B.080; a description of changes in permit volumes and adjustments to Permitting's operations and staffing; and a description of challenges and opportunities that could affect Permitting's ability to meet permit review time limits. The first report responding to these requirements has been transmitted separately.

This proposed Ordinance follows up on recommendations included in the 2025 Permit Review Performance Report that was transmitted to the Council in November 2025, as required by KCC 20.20.135. In addition to recommendations for an annual performance report requirement, the report recommended several Code changes to help Permitting better meet the requirements of Chapter 36.70B RCW.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance.

If your staff have questions, please contact Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services, at 206-263-3332.

The Honorable Sarah Perry

July 7, 2026

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Girmay Zahilay".

for

Girmay Zahilay

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, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive

Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive

Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive

Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive

Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services (DLS)

Mark Rowe, Acting Division Director, DLS Permitting Division