



King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay

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

April 20, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Perry:

On April 6, 2026, I transmitted a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, confirm my appointment of Sandra Valenciano as director of Public Health – Seattle & King County. I appointed Dr. Valenciano to serve as public health director starting March 30, 2026. This letter transmits the enclosed materials that comprise the full set of confirmation documents as established by King County Code and practice.

Dr. Valenciano has been serving successfully as both acting director of Public Health – Seattle & King County and as King County's health officer since December 12, 2025. Prior to her acting appointment, she served as the King County health officer. In that role, she served as the department's primary medical expert, providing leadership on scientific and medical matters that shaped department policy and practice, while fostering strong relationships with the healthcare community.

Dr. Valenciano is a board-certified physician in internal medicine and holds a master's degree in Public Health from Tulane University. Prior to arriving at Public Health – Seattle & King County, Dr. Valenciano served as medical director and district health director/chief executive officer for DeKalb Public Health, overseeing all operations and delivering public health services for over 780,000 residents in DeKalb County, Georgia.

It is my pleasure to request the Council's confirmation of Dr. Sandra Valenciano as director of Public Health – Seattle & King County. If your staff have questions, please contact Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive, at 206-532-0773.

The Honorable Sarah Perry

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Sincerely,



Girmay Zahilay

King County Executive

cc: King County Councilmembers

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

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

The Honorable Katie Wilson, Mayor of Seattle

ATTN: Brian Surratt, Deputy Mayor

Kimberly Loving, Director, Department of Human Resources, City of Seattle

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

Megan Pedersen, Chief People Officer, Office of the Executive

Sandra Valenciano, Director Designee, Public Health – Seattle & King County