



King County

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

206-296-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

May 8, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a proposed Motion that if enacted, would confirm the appointment of Matthew Sanders as King County Public Defender and Director of the King County Department of Public Defense (DPD), consistent with King County Code 2.60.026(B). The enclosed materials comprise the full set of confirmation documents as established by King County Code and practice.

In October of 2024, Mr. Sanders was appointed as Acting Public Defender while a national search was conducted to fill the Public Defender vacancy. Pursuant to King County Code Section 2.60.026 (B)(4), the Public Defense Advisory Board referred a list of three candidates for potential appointment to the Executive. After an extensive interview process with all three candidates, Matthew Sanders was selected and appointed to the position of King County Public Defender. Mr. Sanders will serve in the appointment for the term beginning March 21, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026.

Prior to serving as Acting Public Defender, Mr. Sanders served as Managing Attorney of the Associated Counsel for the Accused Division at DPD where he focused on supporting teams and promoting excellence in client representation. Mr. Sanders served in various leadership roles, including Juvenile Unit Supervisor after the merger of public defense agencies that formed the County's Department of Public Defense.

Mr. Sanders is a graduate of the Seattle University School of Law and the Washington Leadership Institute. He serves on the board of directors for Community for Youth, a teen mentorship organization. He is also on the advisory board of the University of Washington's Gates Public Service Law Scholarship. His demonstrated experience promoting sustainable

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

May 8, 2025

Page 2

caseloads and upholding high standards of public defense make him the ideal candidate to serve as King County's Public Defender.

It is my pleasure to request your confirmation of Matthew Sanders as King County Public Defender. If your staff have questions, please contact Dwight Dively, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,



for

Shannon Braddock
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, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Whitney Abrams, Chief People Officer, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive

Jay Osborne, Director, Department of Human Resources

Matthew Sanders, Public Defender Designee, Department of Public Defense

Chris Carney, Chair, King County Public Defense Advisory Board