



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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April 28, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

I am pleased to transmit a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, approve the reappointment of Ms. Anita Khandelwal to serve another four-year term as King County Public Defender beginning on January 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2026, pursuant to King County Code 2.60.026.D. Also included in this transmittal are the agreed upon background materials supporting the Council's review of this proposed Motion.

Ms. Khandelwal is currently serving as the King County Public Defender. Unless reappointed, her term will expire on December 31, 2022. Prior to serving as King County Public Defender, Ms. Khandelwal served as King County's Acting Public Defender and as the Department of Public Defense (DPD) Deputy Director of Law and Policy. She joined DPD in 2015 and earned her law degree from Yale University.

During Ms. Khandelwal's tenure as the King County Public Defender, I have been impressed by her department's hard work, commitment to clients, and pursuit of equitable justice. Ms. Khandelwal's leadership of DPD during the COVID-19 emergency, while continuing to solidify the department's relatively recent addition to the executive branch, has been both admirable and appreciated.

Ms. Khandelwal has accomplished these endeavors with her unwavering commitment to enhance community safety and support a safe, accessible, and fair justice system. Ms. Khandelwal's reappointment as the King County Public Defender furthers the efficient, accountable regional and local government goal of the King County Strategic Plan.

It is, therefore, my great pleasure to request the confirmation of the reappointment of Anita Khandelwal as the King County Public Defender.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Motion.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

April 28, 2022

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If your staff have any questions, please contact Jay Osborne, Director, Department of Human Resources, at 206-477-3628.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Whitney Abrams, Chief People Officer, Office of the Executive
Jay Osborne, Director, Department of Human Resources
Anita Khandelwal, King County Public Defender