



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

June 29, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

Pursuant to Ordinance 19210, Section 87, Proviso P1, I am pleased to transmit a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would adopt urban design standards for nonresidential, multifamily and mixed-use developments for the North Highline area, which contains the neighborhood of White Center. If adopted, these regulations would guide the appearance of a large portion of future development within North Highline and how these developments relate to their surroundings.

The proposed design standards prioritize the pedestrian environment of the North Highline community. They were informed by community input and visioning, together with the existing urban form and character. The standards are an additional layer of regulation to King County's existing development codes, seeking to channel future developments to fit the context of the community. Components of the standards developers would be required to address include contextual analysis of surrounding areas, collecting and addressing public feedback, street frontage types, site design, design of the public realm, stormwater and landscape design, building design, design for culture and expression, and design for a safe and welcoming neighborhood. The standards outline the expectations of developer submittals and outline a review process that contains a more intensive community input process than other development reviews at King County. The proposed Ordinance has no fiscal impact to the County.

This effort aligns with the mobility and healthy environment goals of the King County Strategic Plan by promoting a walkable community through intentional site design and increased vegetation in the public realm. Another body of policies relevant to this effort is the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan. The public outreach program was designed to be inclusive and collaborative; the community advisory group responded to feedback from the broader community by addressing design elements unique to this area, such as cultural expression and the retention of character of its historic commercial core.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help promote future development that fits the context of the North Highline community.

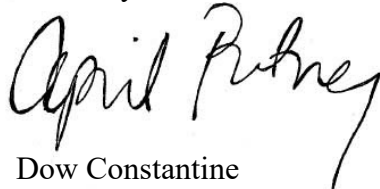
The Honorable Claudia Balducci

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If your staff have any questions, please contact John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services, at 206-477-3800.

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

John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services