



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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November 3, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, authorize the execution of an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the City of Seattle for the provision of public defense services. The King County Department of Public Defense (DPD) currently provides defense services to the City as authorized by King County Ordinance 18409. The current contract expires December 31, 2022, and this ILA will provide for the continuation of defense services through December 31, 2027.

This proposed legislation aligns with King County Code 2.60.020, which authorizes DPD to provide public defense services to the State of Washington, tribal governments and municipalities in King County on a full cost-recovery basis and to negotiate appropriate contractual agreements, subject to King County Council approval by ordinance when required by law. This ILA provides for an extension by mutual agreement between the city of Seattle and King County.

Appropriation authority for the Seattle Municipal Court contract was included in the department's 2023-2024 Executive Proposed Budget at the 2021-2022 service level, pending negotiation of a new contract. Though the new contract increases the overall service level, DPD will not be requesting additional positions at this time. Any appropriation authority or FTE adjustments will be done in the first omnibus. The Seattle Municipal Court contract is full-cost recovery with no fiscal impact to the County.

The proposed Ordinance supports the safety and justice goal of the King County Strategic Plan to provide for a safe and just community through proactive law enforcement and an accessible and fair justice system, while implementing alternatives to divert people from the criminal justice system. The proposal also supports the efficient, accountable regional and local government goal to deliver consistent, responsive, equitable, high-quality services to residents, cities and districts.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

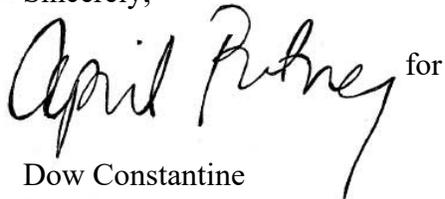
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Thank you for your consideration of this important proposed legislation.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Anita Khandelwal, Public Defender, Department of Public Defense Director at 206-263-2816.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, King County Executive Office
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, King County Executive Office
Mina Hashemi, Director of Council Relations, King County Executive Office
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Anita Khandelwal, Director, Department of Public Defense
Julie Dingley, City of Seattle Budget Office