



King County

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board

Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board

**Department of
Community and Human Services**

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TTY RELAY: 711

July 16, 2012

Councilmember Larry Gossett, Chair
Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Gossett:

As stewards of the Veterans and Human Services (VHS) Levy, we are pleased that Executive Constantine has transmitted to the Metropolitan King County Council a Veterans and Human Services Levy Fund Balance Ordinance, and we ask the Council to support the Executive's proposal.

During the first half of 2012, the Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) and Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) were actively involved in developing proposals for the use of the levy fund balance. Guided by our review of the VHS Levy goals and service priorities, the levy oversight boards discussed a variety of programs to be supported by this ordinance.

Early in 2012, the levy oversight boards heard presentations on the Aerospace and Veterans Employment Training Initiative and had an opportunity to discuss the merits of this proposal with county staff. The funding for this activity will help job seekers access opportunities in our region's burgeoning aerospace industry. This will help not only veterans returning from active duty in need of jobs, but many others seeking a new career path to stabilize their lives and build a better future.

The VCLOB strongly believes we also need to do more for our veterans and their families by enhancing assistance to deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental health issues, continuing outreach efforts, and providing housing solutions for those who have become homeless. The RHSLOB re-affirmed its priority to help homeless youth and young adults, recommending funds be allocated not only for planning purposes, but also to develop youth housing and supportive services. The RHSLOB further voiced its support of the successful

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mobile medical program as well as the Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives for Seniors, recommending additional funding for both.

We are pleased that our feedback to staff was incorporated into the proposed ordinance. We believe the resulting fund balance allocation plan enhances and furthers the goals and objectives of the VHS Levy Service Improvement Plan. It helps by creating opportunities for employment, housing, and improved health for our veterans, their families, and our other neighbors in need across the region.

We appreciate the longstanding commitment of the County Council to supporting the levy's work, and ensuring that the funds are spent strategically to best serve our residents. We look forward to working with you as the County moves forward with the VHS Levy Fund Balance Ordinance and the continuing implementation of the VHS Levy Service Improvement Plan.

Thank you for considering the Executive's proposal for the use of one-time VHS Levy fund balance dollars to help veterans and others in need in our communities.

Sincerely,



Kathy Brasch
Co-Chair, RHSLOB



Doug Hoople
Chair, VCLOB



Loran Lichty
Co-Chair, RHSLOB

cc: Metropolitan King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Michael Woywod, Chief of Staff
Kelli Carroll, Senior Principal Legislative Analyst
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Joe Woods, Deputy Chief of Staff, King County Executive Office (KCEO)
Carrie S. Cihak, Chief Advisor, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, KCEO
Anna Markee, Human Services, Health and Housing Policy Advisor, KCEO
Jackie MacLean, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)
Terry Mark, Acting Division Director, Community Services Division, DCHS