March 28, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

The enclosed ordinance, if approved, will ratify the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 77 collective bargaining agreement for the period of January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2018, which will enable King County to continue to maintain and repair electronic signal and scale, and communications equipment across King County. This agreement covers approximately 30 employees in the departments of Transportation (Road Services Division), King County Information Technology, Natural Resources and Parks, and Public Health.

In the departments of Public Health and King County Information Technology, bargaining unit employees operate and maintain wireless communications systems for County agencies (except Metro Transit) and other local agencies. The largest is the regional 800 megahertz trunked radio system. The system serves about 14,000 users in County and suburban agencies, such as police, fire, emergency medical services, school districts and water districts. The employees are responsible for mobile communications equipment for King County vehicles, including the Sheriff’s Office fleet.

In the Department of Transportation, Road Services Division, the Traffic Signal Technicians maintain and reconstruct traffic control devices in unincorporated King County and contract cities. They build and maintain traffic signals, video monitoring and street lighting. Their work includes electrical inspections, wiring, setting and wiring signal poles, re-lamping, programming signal controllers, installing in-pavement monitoring loops, computer system maintenance and signal preventive maintenance.

Employees in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Solid Waste Division, are responsible for the accuracy of the truck and weigh scales. These responsibilities include testing, evaluating, troubleshooting, maintaining, repairing and calibrating the various electronic/mechanical truck and weigh scales.

The main body of the agreement contains efficiency, accountability and productivity improvements for the County through its adoption of greater efficiencies, standardized payroll practices and housekeeping improvements. These changes include the following:

1. Housekeeping and contract standards changes to personal holiday, vacation and sick leave administration.
2. Improved payroll efficiency in the payment and administration of safety shoes allowance.
3. Created greater administrative ease by creating a new article defining the existing seniority terminology.

This ordinance also meets the interests of King County as outlined in the King County Strategic Plan by advancing the following objectives:

1. Providing sustainability and predictability in administering non-wage and wage-related provisions of this labor agreement through 2018.
2. Financial Stewardship: providing opportunity, through a wage reopener to align with King County Coalition bargaining efforts on “Total Compensation.”

The settlement reached is a product of good faith collective bargaining between King County and the Union. The agreement compares favorably with other settlements and is within our capacity to finance. This agreement has been reviewed by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Division.

If you have questions, please contact Megan Pedersen, Interim Director, Office of Labor Relations, at 206-263-2898.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

 Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

 Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office

 Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

 Megan Pedersen, Interim Director, Office of Labor Relations