



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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June 29, 2018

The Honorable Joe McDermott
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

Enclosed for your review is the report called for by Ordinance 18636 related to the implementation of county policy and goals to reduce the use of secure detention for youth in King County.

The Ordinance required the Executive to provide:

1. Actions taken to implement the policy guidance, including a summary of how each action advances policies and goals;
2. An accounting of the implementation to date of the recommendations of the Working to Reduce the Use of Secure Confinement: A Review of King County's Children and Family Justice Center report and the rationale for alternative measures taken in lieu or in addition to the report's recommendations; and
3. Recommendations by the Interbranch work group for changes to county operations, functions, structures including an assessment of the feasibility of establishing a county business unit with a focus on children and youth services, or policies that could advance this policy guidance. Recommendations should also include any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations.

The enclosed report provides the current implementation status of each of the 195 recommendations contained in the Working to Reduce the Use of Secure Confinement: A Review of King County's Children and Family Justice Center report based on input from Superior Court, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and executive branch departments. It also highlights actions taken by the Court, the Prosecutor, and executive branch departments to implement the policy guidance to reduce the use of secure detention.

Executive staff gathered extensive input to assess and recommend changes to county operations, functions, and structures to assess the feasibility of establishing a county business unit with a focus on children and youth services. Four recommendations responding to the input are included in the enclosed report.

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The attached report reflects the County's adopted policy direction and is informed by the King County Strategic Plan, the Equity and Social Justice Ordinance, and the 2015 Youth Action Plan. It specifically addresses the Safety and Justice goal of the Strategic Plan and its objectives to

- Reduce disproportionate minority representation in the criminal justice system;
- Increase diversion of young people from the criminal justice system and minimize the harmful effects of incarceration on youth, and
- Reduce overall incarceration rates in County jails for individuals who do not pose a public safety risk.

In addition, working in collaboration with the Prosecutor, Superior Court, Public Defense, and communities, a strategic plan to transform our approach to juvenile justice in King County is being prepared and will be delivered to me on August 30. Driven by the vision of zero youth detention, this plan will include measurable outcomes to reduce and work towards the elimination of the use of secure detention for youth in King County, resulting in better outcomes for King County's youth, families, and communities.

It is estimated that this report required 120 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$8,000.

If you have any questions, please feel free to have your staff contact Kelli Carroll, Director of Special Projects, at 206-477-0876.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Grant Lahmann, Chief of Staff to Chair McDermott
Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Kelli Carroll, Director of Special Projects, King County Executive's Office