ATTACHMENT 2

June 24, 2019

The Honorable Rod Dembowski

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

This letter transmits the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy 2018 Annual Report, fulfilling the requirements of the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Implementation Plan adopted by Ordinance 18768.

The attached report, *Community Connections: 2018 Annual Report*, covers the period from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, the first year of the levy governed by the VSHSL Transition Plan adopted by Ordinance 18638. The report highlights 2018 services and reflects King County’s commitment to effective implementation and prudent fiscal stewardship of public funds.

The year covered by this report was a transition year between the Veterans and Human Services Levy and the beginning of the renewed and expanded six-year property tax levy. The VSHSL funds housing and other essential human services for King County’s veterans, servicemembers, and their families; seniors and their caregivers; and the county’s vulnerable populations. King County voters overwhelmingly supported renewal and expansion, which has enabled both continuation and growth of the scope of services provided, building of a more robust and connected system of services to address inequities, deeper investments in housing stability, and new and significantly expanded supports for older adults.

The report describes the continuation of successful services provided under the former levy and the establishment of a strong foundation for new VSHSL services to our community. This work included VSHSL staff community engagement to ensure service models that are driven by community need, and recruitment for a new King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Advisory Board and Veterans Advisory Board.

New investments for the VSHSL in 2018 focused on housing stability, dedication of $3.5 million in one-time funds to stabilize senior centers, and actions to strengthen the King County Veterans Program to position it as a more robust service hub.

I appreciate the growing network of partners that are forming the system of “combined arms” services to those in need in our communities. Together, VSHSL service agencies worked to serve diverse populations throughout King County and achieved progress in the levy’s five result areas: housing stability, financial stability, healthy living, social engagement, and service system access and improvement. I am proud to share those results with you.

The attached 2018 Annual Report describes the strategies launched during the first year of the new levy and includes performance measures and financial reports.

The VSHSL’s emphasis on housing stability investments supports the goals of the King County Strategic Plan, particularly the goal for Accessible, Affordable Housing and its objectives of “providing targeted affordable housing resources to communities and individuals that meet their specific needs” and “increasing housing stability for low-income families.”

In addition, VSHSL programs further the Health and Human Potential goal to “provide opportunities for all communities and individuals to realize their full potential,” and the objective to “ensure a network of integrated and effective health and human services is available to people in need.”

The King County Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Strategic Plan is also foundational to the work of the VSHSL, which seeks to support organizations that recognize and address the disparities and disproportionality that exist in our communities. This report also makes clear the intersections between the VSHSL and two companion initiatives: Best Starts for Kids and the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) action plan.

This report required an estimated 320 staff hours to produce, costing $14,720. The estimated printing cost for this report is $2,199.

I look forward to our continued partnership as we expand the work to serve local veterans, servicemembers, and their families; seniors and their caregivers; and vulnerable populations. Together, we can ensure that King County is truly a community where every person has the opportunity to thrive.

If you have any questions, please contact Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at (206) 477-4384.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Kristina Logsdon, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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

Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)

Scarlett Aldebot-Green, Division Director, Adult Services Division, DCHS