



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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April 23, 2020

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 emergency supplemental appropriation ordinance that, if enacted, would authorize King County to continue to fund critical COVID-19 response efforts. The proposed ordinance seeks appropriation authority to invest in four key areas: continuing King County's COVID-19 response; supporting King County employees and the continuity of county operations; our communities; and the local tourism industry. The proposed ordinance also seeks to allocate future lodging tax revenue to support an advance to regional tourism authorities in 2020.

On Sunday, March 1, a Proclamation of Emergency in response to COVID-19 enabled extraordinary measures to fight the outbreak, including waiving some procurement protocols and authorizing overtime for King County employees. On March 13, the King County Council approved the first COVID-19 supplemental request, which funded critical facility development, Public Health operations, and community outreach. This second COVID-19 supplemental appropriations request:

- **Invests in King County's COVID-19 response** to continue leasing sites to be used to isolate patients in treatment and recovery and for de-intensifying local shelters. Additional expenditure authority is also requested to provide security, janitorial services, and utilities at the sites.
- **Invests in King County employees and continuity of county operations** by providing pay for front line county employees, purchasing body scanners for the adult correctional facilities, and improving remote information technology access enabling Department of Assessment staff to use the county's legacy property tax administration system.

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- **Invests in communities** by providing funds for homeless youth shelters and services; arts, culture, heritage, educational, and science organizations; local music venues; outreach by community based organizations to communities on the frontlines of the coronavirus outbreak; and, small businesses. The proposed small business program, administered by the Department of Local Services with input from the Office of Equity and Social Justice, will focus on assisting small businesses in all areas of the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and especially those in economically distressed areas. This program will include translation services, technical support for businesses, and grants of up to \$5,000 to maintain operations.
- **Invests in the regional tourism industry** to strategically promote tourism in King County after the health crisis has passed to help stabilize the tourism industry, as well as enhance the lodging tax revenue stream.

Please note that these appropriation requests rely on initial estimates of costs, which may be revised. At this time, we do not anticipate the need to develop additional COVID related isolation, treatment, and recovery sites.

This is the second COVID-19 supplemental appropriation request I have transmitted to the King County Council. I anticipate a third emergency proposed supplemental appropriation ordinance will be transmitted to the Council in May, as we continue to plan for future county operations and anticipate other necessary operational adjustments and investments required to maintain continuity of county operations. As the County shifts from immediate response to recovery, it is anticipated future requests will be focused less on facilities and more on continuity of operations, preparedness, and community support. Throughout all our planning work, we are actively seeking state and federal reimbursement for all COVID-19 related expenses.

This work furthers the goal of the King County Strategic Plan to improve the health and well-being of people in our community.

I certify that funds are available.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. If your staff have any questions, please contact Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "FC" or similar mark at the end.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

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cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive