



King County

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March 21, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a proposed Motion that, if enacted, would confirm my appointment of Matt Sanders as King County Public Defender and Director of the King County Department of Public Defense (DPD), consistent with King County Code 2.60.026(B). A full set of confirmation documents will be submitted under separate cover.

In October of 2024, I appointed Mr. Sanders as Acting Public Defender. Pursuant to King County Code Section 2.60.26 (B)(4), I selected Mr. Sanders from the list of three names referred to me by the King County Public Defense Advisory Board for appointment to the position. If confirmed by the Council, Mr. Sanders will serve a term beginning March 21, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026 at which point reappointment would be necessary as called for by King County Code.

Prior to serving as Acting Public Defender, Mr. Sanders was Managing Attorney of the Associated Counsel for the Accused Division at DPD, where his focus was on supporting teams and promoting excellence in client representation. In addition, Mr. Sanders served in various leadership roles, including Juvenile Unit Supervisor after the merger that formed the Department of Public Defense.

Mr. Sanders is a graduate of the Washington Leadership Institute. He serves on the Board of Directors for Community for Youth, a mentorship organization for teens. He is also on the Advisory Board of the University of Washington Gates Public Service Law Scholarship Advisory Board. His demonstrated experience promoting sustainable caseloads and upholding high standards of public defense make him the ideal candidate to serve as King County's Public Defender.

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It is my pleasure to request your confirmation of Matt Sanders as King County Public Defender. If your staff have questions, please contact Dwight Dively, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Whitney Abrams, Chief People Officer, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive

Jay Osborne, Director, Department of Human Resources

Matt Sanders, Public Defender Designee, Department of Public Defense

Chris Carney, Chair, King County Public Defense Advisory Board