



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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September 5, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits the Crisis Response Proviso response report as called for by Ordinance 19546, Section 21, as amended by Ordinance 19633, Section 17 P1, and a proposed Motion that would, if approved, acknowledge receipt of the report.

The enclosed report developed by the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) describes its Therapeutic Response Unit (TRU). The TRU represents a progressive approach to law enforcement-driven public safety, which integrates mental health professionals with specially trained KCSO deputies to form co-responder teams. These teams focus on de-escalation, crisis intervention, service referrals, and support for ongoing treatment processes.

The report details community engagement efforts, analyzes crisis response models, outlines the development of crisis response policies, describes procedures for interagency cooperation, and provides an implementation timeline for the TRU. By integrating mental health expertise with law enforcement, the TRU aims to improve the effectiveness of crisis response, reduce incarceration rates for non-criminal issues, and enhance overall community well-being.

In developing the report, the KCSO engaged community organizations, social service providers, non-profit and neighborhood groups, renter and homeowner associations, and school districts. More than 300 organizations and community members were contacted to provide input on the needs of King County and on the development of a crisis response program. Key themes from the feedback included improving public safety, developing an inclusive and accessible program, and connecting individuals in crisis with services that will help reduce the likelihood of future crises. Community perspectives and input are at the core of the TRU development and implementation.

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Thank you for your consideration of the report and proposed Motion. If your staff have questions, please contact Cheol Kang, Chief of Community Programs and Services Division, King County Sheriff's Office at 206.806.0529.

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

Shannon Braddock, Deputy King County Executive, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Patti Cole-Tindall, King County Sheriff

Cheol Kang, Chief of Community Programs and Services Division, King County Sheriff's Office