



King County

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

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August 28, 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 the Temporary Use and Special Events Report, in response to Ordinance 19861, Section 87, Proviso P1. The enclosed report outlines current regulations, policies, procedures, and practices related to temporary use permits (TUPs) and special event permits. The report includes a description of temporary uses and issued TUPs, an analysis of complaints related to TUPs, an overview of temporary use and special event regulations in other Washington counties, and recommendations for potential updates to the King County Code.

The report finds that the majority of TUPs in unincorporated King County (UKC) are business-related and located in Rural Areas, with the most common type of temporary use being weddings or event centers. Temporary uses and special events can provide economic and social benefits by increasing the number of patrons to businesses (e.g. lodging, restaurants, gas stations, etc.) and provide employment opportunities otherwise not available in the area. However, they can also impact neighboring properties, roadways, and the environment due to increased traffic, noise, and overall frequency and duration of such events.

The report recommends changes to TUP regulations, including:

- Reduction of the number of days per year a temporary use can operate.
- Limitation on the number of individuals allowed per day for exempt temporary uses.
- Restrictions on the frequency in which a temporary use may operate during a week, weekend, and month.
- Increased requirements for traffic control, emergency vehicle access, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

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Review of the potential effects of these recommendations on businesses with existing TUPs is still underway.

Please note that due to resource and data limitations, some information called for by the Proviso is not included and for some areas, the Department of Local Services provides alternative information. For example, the limits to how the Accela permit database is structured, and the necessity of reviewing multiple documents within the separate permit- and case-related databases for each TUP complaint, detailed information about the locations, types and resolution of complaints is not provided. The department, however, provides analysis of enforcement cases related to one TUP as an example of how a TUP complaint is reviewed.

Thank you for your consideration of this report.

If your staff have questions, please contact Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services at 206-263-3332.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Braddock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shannon Braddock

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

Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services

Jim Chan, Division Director, Department of Local Services, Permitting Division