

Document Code No.: ACO-8-24-EO

Title: Emergency Budget Crisis in Response to COVID-19

Keywords: Public Health, Novel Coronavirus, pandemic, COVID-19, budget

Sponsoring Agency: Performance, Strategy and Budget Office



King County

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY BUDGET CRISIS

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Governor of Washington State declared a state of emergency in all counties in Washington State and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented as a result of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and confirmation of person-to-person spread in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an infectious respiratory disease classified by the World Health Organization as a pandemic that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, in my capacity as King County Executive, I issued a Proclamation of Emergency enabling extraordinary measures to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. On March 3, 2020, the council passed Motion 15610 affirming the proclamation of emergency; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to the most vulnerable populations, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued a "Stay Home – Stay Healthy" Order prohibiting, with limited exceptions, all people in Washington State from leaving their homes or participating in social, spiritual, and recreational gatherings of any kind regardless of the number of participants, and required all non-essential businesses in Washington State to cease operations except for performing basic minimal operations. In describing COVID-19's impact on public health and the economy, the Order noted the pandemic's progression in Washington State that continues to threaten the economy and remains a public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace. This Order has been extended twice, currently set to expire May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Stay Home - Stay Healthy Order and the related public safety preventative measures, including social distancing, are causing devastating economic effects in Washington and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the County is experiencing extraordinary and unprecedented economic conditions and severe fiscal challenges across all county funds, which is resulting in a significant shortfall in the amount of funding needed to sustain the current level of general operations through 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide March taxable sales collections in March of 2020 were 24 percent less than March of 2019; and

WHEREAS, with reduced revenues forecasted for the remainder of 2020 and beyond, the County is working hard to find innovative ways to gain efficiencies in all county functions in order to minimize service reductions to the public; and

WHEREAS, the current fiscal circumstance is such that projected County revenues are forecasted and determined to be insufficient to fully fund County agency operations and significant costs savings must be achieved through reductions in service and pay.

THE FOLLOWING IS PROCLAIMED BY THE KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE, DOW CONSTANTINE

It is determined that King County revenues are insufficient to fully fund King County agency operations and significant costs savings must be achieved through reductions in service and pay. As such, I declare and proclaim that pursuant to K.C.C. 3.12F.020, an emergency budget crisis exists in King County. This proclamation shall remain in existence through the remainder of the 2019-2020 budget biennium. Once this proclamation is ratified by the council, I may exercise my emergency powers and authority to:

1. Order a budgetary furlough, including the furlough of employees of the executive branch and closure of county offices;
2. Order the reduction in hours or the closure of county offices on specific days associated with the budgetary furlough; or
3. Order any other actions relating to employees in K.C.C. Title 3.

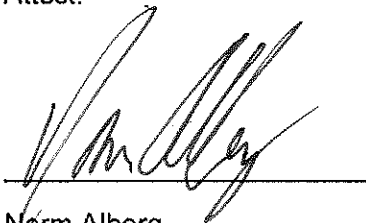
The county will fulfill its bargaining obligations with county labor partners before implementing a budgetary furlough.

DATED THIS **29** day of May, 2020.



DOW CONSTANTINE, King County Executive
State of Washington

Attest:



Norm Alberg
Director, Records and Licensing Services Division