



King County

Shannon Braddock

King County Executive

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April 15, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

I am pleased to provide you with a link to the Department of Public Defense's (DPD) [2024 annual report](#). This linked report is transmitted pursuant to King County Code 2.60.026, which requires the public defender to ensure:

...that the American Bar Association Ten Principles for a Public Defense Delivery System, as approved by the American Bar Association House of Delegates in February of 2002, guide the management of the department and development of department standards for legal defense representation, and filing with the clerk of the council by April 1 of every other year a report on the results of the county public defender's efforts in that regard; ...

The report covers a pivotal year of transition for the department, marked by Interim Director Matthew Sanders taking on the role of leading the department while DPD began preparations to implement new caseload standards set by the Washington State Bar Association. The enclosed report highlights how DPD's defense teams navigated this challenging terrain, their advocacy on behalf of individual clients, and the department's advocacy for a criminal legal system that was less harmful to our clients. The report shares all of the department's practice areas, advocacy for caseload reform, and DPD's internship program. It includes brief notes about the past year from the two unions – SEIU Local 925 and Teamsters Local 117 representing DPD staff.

If your staff has any questions, please contact Matthew Sanders, Interim Director, Department of Public Defense, at 206-477-9025 or at matthew.sanders@kingcounty.gov.

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

April 15, 2024

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karan Gill', is written over a horizontal line.

for

Shannon Braddock

King County Executive

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

Penny Lipsou, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Matthew Sanders, Interim Director, Department of Public Defense