



King County

Dow Constantine

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April 5, 2023

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 a report on the impacts of redlining and racist real estate practices as required by Ordinance 19210, Section 112, Proviso P2. Ordinance 19443 (lines 1417 to 1424) extended the Proviso dates, calling for a status report to be submitted on June 1, 2022, and the final report to be submitted on April 1, 2023. This letter also transmits a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

The enclosed report identifies historical events and local and national race-based real estate practices and policies over the last 120 years that have impacted the ability of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents in King County to purchase homes and build wealth. It also quantifies the amount of foregone wealth such practices have had on BIPOC residents in King County by preventing the gaining of equity and passing of assets, such as real estate, to succeeding generations.

The report provides an analysis of the wastewater capacity charge, the fee charged by King County since 1990 on new sewer connections to ensure that “property owners bear their equitable share of the cost of [the wastewater treatment] system.” After a thorough legal and policy review, this report does not recommend moving capacity charge exemptions nor reduced rates for individuals or families affected by racist real estate practices. However, the report presents a stark history of the impact of redlining in King County and serves as an important resource for our continued focus to address the impacts that discriminatory real estate practices have had on BIPOC residents.

In developing the report, King County contracted with ECONorthwest, a regional consulting firm specializing in economics, finance, and planning, to research and analyze the history of redlining and race-based real estate practices in King County. ECONorthwest worked with the University of Washington’s Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project and other prominent research bodies to conduct its study. An Interdepartmental Project Team consisting of County staff from multiple departments guided the overall work of the study.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

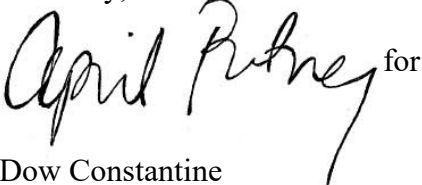
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The report reflects the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan goal of being intentionally and actively pro-equity by providing respectful and culturally responsive services and information delivered in a manner centered on BIPOC communities and providing redress to community members within established mechanisms when barriers or gaps are identified.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion. If your staff have any questions, please contact Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-549-1190.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

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

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP