



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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September 30, 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 a proposed Ordinance in response to Ordinance 19546, Section 90, Proviso P1, and would, if adopted, implement changes to King County Code as recommended in the Code Enforcement Process Improvement and Proposed Title 23 Amendments Report also required by this Proviso. Approval of the proposed King County Code (KCC) amendments will help clarify and streamline the code enforcement processes to support reducing the length of time between initial complaint and resolution by the Department of Local Services (DLS). Notably, the report and a proposed Motion to acknowledge receipt are transmitted concurrently with this letter under separate cover.

Title 23 of the King County Code contains procedures for code enforcement, which is administered by staff within DLS, Permitting Division. The DLS Code Enforcement Unit investigates complaints regarding violations of KCC related to zoning, building, property maintenance, shorelines, and critical areas in unincorporated King County.

Proposed amendments include those which would:

- Prioritize code enforcement complaints;
- Distinguish between, and assess, different monetary penalties for residential and nonresidential code violations;
- Simplify appeals processes, by authorizing email as a notification method for contacting property owners and occupants; and
- Add additional sources of information such as map databases and aerial imagery that may be used as evidence for legal challenges.

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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. The proposed updates to KCC would make effective use of limited resources to provide code enforcement services to unincorporated King County.

If your staff have questions, please contact Jim Chan, Director, Department of Local Services, Permitting Division, at 206-477-0385.

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
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services
Jim Chan, Director, Department of Local Services, Permitting Division