



## **King County**

**Shannon Braddock**  
King County Executive

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July 17, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

Pursuant to Ordinance 19861, Section 54, Proviso 2, please find enclosed the required Proviso response on use of the west wing of the King County Correctional Facility (KCCF) as an area to provide alternatives to secure detention services and a proposed Motion that would, if approved, acknowledge receipt of the plan.

As required, the Proviso response includes discussion of the feasibility and advantages of using all or a portion of the west wing of the King County Correctional Facility to provide a "side door" alternative space to bring people with behavior health needs arrested for non-violent misdemeanor offenses, as an alternative to booking them into jail, including consideration of whether the space should be secure, and the feasibility of co-locating the facility with the homeless shelter currently occupying the west wing. The document describes input from the Behavioral Health Division of the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) on the types of services that could be provided on-site. It includes a projected number of individuals who could be served, along with initial estimated capital and operating resources needed. A discussion of funding resources is included.

Currently, the first floor of the KCCF west wing is a shelter for unhoused individuals, operated by the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC). The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) utilizes floors two – seven for resident housing and jail operations. The enclosed report explores the potential to renovate and repurpose storage space used by DESC for the first-floor shelter to create side door services. With renovation, this storage space could be repurposed to provide beds for up to 16 adult males for a 24/7, voluntary, side door program. Because the storage space is essential for shelter operations, repurposing it while keeping the shelter would require finding alternative space for client storage and program supply or reducing the number of shelter beds.

To inform the development of this Proviso response, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB) staff convened individual and group stakeholder discussions with representatives from DAJD, DCHS, the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO), Department of Public Defense (DPD), Seattle Police Department (SPD), the Seattle Mayor's Office, State Department of Corrections (DOC), the courts, and diversion programs. In these discussions, many partners expressed concerns about making the side door program secure or involuntary. They also shared concerns about and losing the existing functioning shelter beds. The side door concept outlined in the enclosed Proviso response reflects feedback from the engaged stakeholders.

The Proviso response also identifies two subject areas raised by stakeholders for further analysis, each of which impact side door program design and facility use. Because additional information is needed on these areas, the Proviso response does not include a timeline for implementation due the need for further analysis.

The first area for additional work involves conducting a legal/statutory analysis of the development and implementation of an involuntary, secure side door program. While the Proviso response notes that most stakeholders consulted coalesced around creating a voluntary side door program, some interested parties hold that the side door program should be a locked facility implemented as secure alternative to jail. Further analysis is needed in this area to inform policy decisions around the side door program.

The second area for further analysis is consideration of the concentration of human services downtown Seattle and Pioneer Square. Some stakeholders have noted that the area around KCCF in downtown Seattle/Pioneer Square neighborhood has a high concentration of human services. Given the existing constraints of the west wing outlined in the enclosed document, its use as a shelter, and the potential additional services offered through a new Crisis Care Center on Capitol Hill, policymakers and stakeholders may wish to reexamine the concept of locating a side door program in the downtown Seattle Pioneer Square neighborhood.

Next steps outlined in the response include further analysis of these two areas which should be undertaken in collaboration with stakeholders, the County Executive, and the King County Council.

Thank you for your consideration of this Proviso response and proposed Motion.

If your staff have questions, please contact Diana Joy, Chief of Administration, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention at 206-263-2769.

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

July 17, 2025

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karan Gill', written in a cursive style.

for

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

Allen Nance, Director, DAJD

Steve Larsen, Deputy Director, DAJD

Diana Joy, Chief of Administration, DAJD

Kelly Rider, Director, DCHS