



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

June 11, 2020

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed ordinance that would, if enacted, ratify a negotiated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17 (the Union) in the Department of Public Health and the Department of Community & Human Services. This negotiated MOA is for the period of March 9, 2019, through the end of the County's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adoption of this proposed ordinance will enable the Seattle-King County Public Health Department to establish and provide vital healthcare services to patients at King County COVID-19 isolation and quarantine sites as well as assessment and recovery centers (COVID Care Sites) throughout King County. A large percentage of patients referred to these sites are people who are unstably housed, staying in shelters, living in supported housing, or who are experiencing homelessness, and who may have complex physical and behavioral health conditions.

The MOA covers all classifications represented by the Union. The MOA provides for voluntary and involuntary redeployment of Union staff to fulfill critical needs at newly established COVID Care Sites. The premiums provided for in this MOA are only for actual hours worked by employees assigned to work at COVID Care Sites. The premiums recognize the significant change in duties, work location and hours for redeployed Local 17 staff who are assigned to COVID Care Sites, coupled with their heightened risk of contracting the illness while caring for COVID-19 positive patients.

The negotiated MOA was reached pursuant to good faith negotiations between King County and the Union. The terms and conditions of the MOA are intended to establish temporary

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personnel rules that allow rapid and flexible redeployment of staff where they are most needed -- supporting the County's COVID-19 external response effort.

Adoption of this proposed ordinance, which will ratify the negotiated MOA, advances the King County Strategic Plan's guiding principles and goals of efficient, accountable regional and local government by establishing terms necessary to meet individual and community needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, this legislation has a direct nexus to the County's COVID-19 pandemic response by facilitating redeployment of in-house medical staff, currently in short supply regionally, to treat the County's most vulnerable residents afflicted by COVID-19.

Supplemental budget authority is being requested for implementation of this MOA in the third COVID-19 supplemental appropriation. A complete summary of the costs associated with this MOA can be found in the accompanying fiscal note, which has been reviewed by the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. If your staff have questions, please contact Megan Pedersen, Director, Office of Labor Relations, at 206-263-2898.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
        Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
Megan Pedersen, Director, Office of Labor Relations