



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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December 20, 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 proposed supplemental appropriation Ordinance that would, if enacted, provide funding to Department of Public Defense (DPD) to implement memorandums of agreement (MOA) between the County and the Service Employees International Union, Local 925 and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 117. These two labor unions represent DPD's public defense attorneys and attorney supervisors, respectively. Proposed legislation ratifying these agreements is transmitted separately from this proposed Ordinance.

This proposed General Fund supplemental will provide \$365,000 for 2024 incentives to defend Class A felony defendants to DPD employees classified as Public Defense Attorney 1 and Public Defense Attorney Supervisor. The proposed supplemental amount assumes that approximately 109 DPD employees will receive either a one-step increase or \$4,000 bonus in 2024, per the terms of the agreements.

The parties engaged in mid-contract negotiations in 2023 related to DPD attorney retention issues and the South County Correctional Entity pilot. The memorandums of agreement have been ratified by the affected bargaining units.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. Adoption of this proposed Ordinance will provide DPD with sufficient funding to implement the agreements, which in turn will enable King County to better meet DPD's caseload demands and continue to effectively represent clients.


The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

December 20, 2023

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If your staff have questions, please contact Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Megan Pedersen, Director, Office of Labor Relations