



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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

July 25, 2022

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, if enacted, would amend the King County Code to align with established emergency management standards and require Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) by County departments and agencies. This proposed Ordinance addresses the King County Code revisions recommended by the King County Auditor.

The King County Auditor published a report on the King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) on June 14, 2016. The report provided recommendations, including the creation of specific emergency preparedness-related requirements within King County Code. A second King County Auditor report addressing planning gaps revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic was published on January 11, 2022. This report and its accompanying letter provided recommendations, including the creation of specific continuity of government operations-related requirements within the King County Code.

The proposed Ordinance would require each County department and agency to develop, update, and exercise organizational COOP and emergency operations plans. It would also require departments and agencies to participate in an interagency coordination program. In addition, each County department and agency would formally designate and empower at least one emergency liaison to be responsible for interagency coordination, COOP, and emergency planning.

The proposed Ordinance furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government. As per the attached fiscal note, the additional costs associated with this proposed Code change will be included in the forthcoming 2023-2024 Executive Proposed Budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help ensure that King County Government and its operations continue to meet the goal of best-run government, including during times of emergencies and disasters.

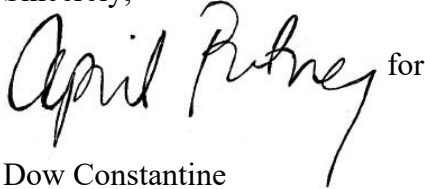
The Honorable Claudia Balducci

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If your staff have any questions, please contact Brendan McCluskey, Director, Office of Emergency Management, at 206-205-4060.

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, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Caroline Whalen, Director, Department of Executive Services (DES)

Brendan McCluskey, Director, Office of Emergency Management (DES)