

Patrick H. Oishi

PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE
SUPERIOR COURT KING COUNTY
COURTHOUSE SEATTLE,
WASHINGTON 98104-2381

EMAILED FOR EXPEDIENCY

January 13, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
King County Courthouse

Dear King County Council Chair Upthegrove:

This letter transmits Superior Court's report in response to 2021-22 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19210, Section 31, Proviso P1, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 18 and a proposed Motion, that would, if passed, acknowledge receipt of the report.

As required, the enclosed report describes the number of Juvenile Court probation staff that will be needed after the implementation of the Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) diversion program.

The report also includes a description of the full body of work of Juvenile Court in the context of decades of reform, a description of Juvenile Court's new Juvenile Therapeutic & Restorative Accountability Court (JTRAC) model, and an analysis of current and future staffing needs relative to these items.

Juvenile Court's services through the JTRAC model are now more individualized and therapeutic for the complicated cases it continues to handle. Staffing levels are determined to be appropriate for the intensity of services the Court is currently providing and will continue to provide in the future. Further or future budget cuts will compromise these critical services, which are essential to youth not eligible for RCP. To conduct a staffing and budget analysis, the Court engaged the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget.

Juvenile Court's staffing plan aligns with the King County Strategic Plan's goal to increase diversion of young people from the criminal justice system while maintaining an accessible, developmentally appropriate, and fair system for those youth who continue to be served by the Court. The JTRAC model explicitly centers community partnerships and building a community web of support for youth and families in advancement of the King County Equity and Social Justice Plan.

Thank you for consideration of this report.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Linda Ridge, Chief Administrative Officer, at (206) 477-1365.

Sincerely,

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

Judge Patrick Oishi
Presiding Judge
King County Superior Court

Enclosure

cc: Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council