

April 19, 2016

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

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits an ordinance that will enable King County to enter into a reciprocal emergency jail services agreement with Chelan County which would provide continuous inmate jail housing and medical treatment in the event of an emergency situation.

Effective control and housing of inmates during an emergency may depend upon the immediate use of correctional resources, including buildings, vacant cell space, transportation, equipment, and personnel from other jurisdictions outside King County. Council approved similar agreements with Pierce and Snohomish County in the last year. We are working on similar agreements with other counties in the state to ensure we are able to provide jail services in emergent situations.

If the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) were unable to safely operate a correctional facility in an emergent situation, such as fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, epidemic, riot or insurrection, any of our partner counties would make a good-faith effort to make their resources available to King County in order to ensure continuous detention services.

The proposed ordinance would:

- Align with the Justice and Safety goal in the King County Strategic Plan to support safe communities and to further the following strategies to meet objectives of this goal:
 - To collaborate with local jurisdictions to define and provide regional law, safety and justice services

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- To operate secure and humane detention facilities that comply with legal and regulatory requirements
- To undertake regional emergency planning and preparedness activities, including education and coordination
- Allow the Executive to sign an Agreement between King County and Chelan County for the provision of emergency jail services
- Allow for reciprocity of emergency jail services during emergencies

We urge the Council to support the passage of this ordinance in order to allow for a plan that aids the mission of DAJD to contribute to the continued public safety for the citizens of both King County and Chelan County.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance. This important legislation will help King County residents know that they will be protected and provided for in the event of an emergency situation if the normal detention facilities become compromised.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact William Hayes, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, at 206-477-2801.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
William Hayes, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention