



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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May 12, 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 the first of two reports in response to 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19546, Section 17, Proviso P4 and a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

As required, the enclosed report is the first of two reports on progress toward addressing the civil and criminal case backlog that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic and progress on addressing new eviction cases after the state eviction moratorium was lifted. The report is a continuation of reporting required by Ordinance 19210.

The Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget collaborated with District Court, the Department of Judicial Administration, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Department of Public Defense, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, and Superior Court in developing the report.

The Washington State Constitution, the County Charter, and applicable ordinances maintain authority for criminal legal operations within the courts, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the Department of Public Defense. While the Executive Office convened all parties and the report includes recommendations to address the backlog, recommendations that were not agreed to by all parties cannot be implemented.

As required, the report includes information on the positions supported by Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) revenues including expenditure as of March 31, 2023; discussion of the date by which the backlog of cases will be addressed assuming various funding scenarios for 2024; identification and discussion of barriers and system challenges to addressing the case backlog; a plan to address the felony criminal backlog; funding options to address the backlog in felony criminal cases; data on the Superior Court felony backlog; and discussion of the status of the District Court backlog.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

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Thank you for your review of this report. If your staff have any 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 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, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget