August 27, 2015

The Honorable Larry Phillips

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

I am pleased to transmit a proposed ordinance that establishes authority for Public Health – Seattle & King County to solicit donations and establishes an exception to the two thousand dollars threshold requiring County Council action to accept donations.

Historically, Public Health – Seattle & King County has received unsolicited donations in support of specific services for programs such as the Health Care for the Homeless respite program and the preparedness unit. As an anchor department in service to achieving King County Strategic Plan goals related to Health and Human Potential, Public Health strives to overcome financial challenges in the context of the rapidly evolving environment of health system transformation. Engaging partners in this effort by soliciting financial assistance is an important strategy to assuring the provision of priority public health services to King County communities and individuals. Also, this ordinance paves the way to add Public Health – Seattle & King County to the Employee Giving Program so that Public Health – Seattle & King County could solicit and accept donations from employees during the annual giving drive. The proposed ordinance addresses all funds, programs and services within the Public Health organization and includes the repeal of code language that relates to the Healthcare Coalition, a program that is no longer a part of King County government.

Under existing King County Code provisions, Public Health – Seattle & King County is not authorized to solicit donations. Additionally, with the exception of the Emergency Medical Services Division, donations of more than two thousand dollars must be accepted by motion of the County Council. The procedures that govern acceptance of donations by the Emergency Medical Services Division, adopted in 1986 in Motion 6605 and now out of date, will be brought into conformance with current procedures.

Thank you for considering this ordinance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christopher McGowan, Financial Services Manager, Public Health – Seattle & King County, at 206-263-1408.

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

 Christopher McGowan, Financial Services Manager, Public Health – Seattle & King

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