June 28, 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 the Veterans and Human Services (VHS) Levy 2015 Annual Report covering the period of January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, per King County Ordinance 17200, and the accompanying motion for Council acceptance. This report provides an overview of the programs and services supported by the VHS Levy that was renewed by overwhelming approval of the voters of King County in August 2011.

I appreciate the continued support of the King County Council and the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) throughout the life of the levy. Thank you for your shared commitment to local veterans, their families, and others in need. I also wish to thank the volunteer members of the VHS Levy Citizen Oversight Boards for their many hours of community service, and for their continued oversight of the VHS Levy funds.

This is the fourth annual report for the 2012-2017 VHS Levy. The report documents King County’s success in implementing the activities and strategies identified in the VHS Levy Service Improvement Plan, 2012-2017 and the positive impact these voter-approved funds have brought in our communities. There have been many levy successes, details of which are provided in the levy annual report.

The VHS Levy 2015 Annual Report, Attachment A to the motion, contains a description of services and the status of activities, individual program statistics by strategy and activity, a report from the VHS Levy Citizen Oversight Boards, and an evaluation report. Also enclosed with this package is a VHS Levy 2015 Annual Financial Report, Exhibit 1 to the annual report.

The programs described in the annual report further the goals of the King County Strategic Plan, particularly the Health and Human Potential Goal to “provide opportunities for all communities and individuals to realize their full potential,” and especially Objective 4, to “ensure a network of integrated and effective health and human services is available to people in need.” The levy programs support the equity and social justice initiative by reporting on access to determinants of equity, including family wage jobs and job training, health and human services, and housing.

The programs highlighted in the VHS Levy 2015 Annual Report also support the three goals described in the adopted VHS Levy Service Improvement Plan, 2012-2017:

1. Prevent and reduce homelessness;
2. Reduce unnecessary criminal justice and emergency medical system involvement; and
3. Increase self-sufficiency of veterans and vulnerable populations.

It is estimated that this report required 443 staff hours to produce, costing $49,000. The estimated printing cost for this report is $4,000.

I look forward to working with the County Council, the citizen oversight boards and the community as we continue to implement the levy programs that are effective in helping veterans, their families, and others in need achieve healthier and more productive lives.

If you have any questions, please contact Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-9100.

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

Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services