November 6, 2019

The Honorable Rod Dembowski

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

This letter transmits a proposed ordinance codifying the principles of the Housing Engagement Plan, transmitted to the King County Council on March 1, 2019 in response to Ordinance 18835, Section 101, Proviso P4. The Plan included intent to transmit this proposed ordinance within 120 days of approval of the Plan. Council approved the Plan by Motion 15445 on July 10, 2019.

Implementation of the Housing Engagement Plan will enhance the role of the County Council in policy and funding decisions related to regional housing and homeless services moving forward. Codification, as called for in the proviso and the approved Housing Engagement Plan, will ensure that the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) will continue to engage with, consult, and notify councilmembers at key stages during the administration of affordable housing investments.

In alignment with this proposed ordinance and to carry out the specific steps in the approved Housing Engagement Plan, DCHS plans to initiate a variety of engagement opportunities for the Council. DCHS will host an annual priority-setting meeting with Councilmembers and Council staff to establish shared priorities for the year’s housing-related procurements. Councilmembers and Council staff will also have a greater role in stakeholder meetings, reviewing draft Requests for Proposals, and participating on review panels as non-voting members. All Councilmembers will receive information on final award decisions prior to award notification.

To support further transparency about housing investments, this proposed ordinance will also establish an annual memorandum or system performance dashboard update, which will communicate key information about all active affordable housing projects funded by King County. DCHS plans to provide memoranda or dashboard updates each year by March 31.

This proposed ordinance aligns with core values and objectives from the King County Strategic Plan and the County’s Equity and Social Justice Initiative, including preventing homelessness, increasing housing stability, and providing accountable and transparent leadership.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. As we work together to put it into practice, I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Council to ensure housing priorities are aligned across the executive and legislative branches. With recent new investments in the production of affordable housing, King County is positioned to improve housing stability and affordability for people in need countywide.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-9100.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services

Mark Ellerbrook, Division Director, Housing, Homelessness and Community Development Division, DCHS