



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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February 18, 2021

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed ordinance that would, if enacted, ratify a negotiated collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) covering supervisors and managers in the Department of Public Health Seattle & King County and the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention for the contractual period of *January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022*. Adoption of this proposed ordinance will enable King County to provide bargained for wages, hours and working conditions to employees who provide nursing care services in our community.

The negotiated CBA covers approximately 36 nurse manager, supervisor, and recruiter positions. Employees in these positions oversee daily operations and supervise medical and administrative staff at Public Health service locations and in the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.

The negotiated CBA was reached pursuant to good faith negotiations and collective bargaining between King County and the WSNA and has been ratified by the bargaining unit.

The terms and conditions of the negotiated CBA align with the WSNA Staff Unit CBA and adopt a number of provisions and standards from the Master Labor Agreement. The notable additions to this negotiated WSNA CBA include updating the process for work schedule changes and providing for a more streamlined process for management to revise work schedules.

This WSNA CBA provides new management tools for how supervisory positions are filled whether by transfer or hiring, and advances equity and social justice interests by eliminating seniority as the sole factor in transfer selection. The layoff provision has been updated to

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increase administrative efficiency when processing layoffs and eliminates potential staffing/program disruptions caused by seniority-based bumping of employees from one Public Health division to another. Finally, the grievance procedure has also been updated to clarify what information the union must provide when filing a grievance, standardizes grievance step timelines to align with the MLA, and eliminates the ability for grievances of verbal and written reprimands to go beyond step 3 to arbitration.

The general wage increases for the negotiated WSNA Supervisor and Manager Unit CBA are the same as the WSNA Staff Unit, and generally correspond to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue. The June 2019 to June 2020 CPI-W change was (1.01 percent), which informed the 2021 wage adjustment of 1 percent, and the projection for June 2020 to June 2021 CPI-W is (2.36 percent), which informed the 2022 wage adjustment of 2 percent.

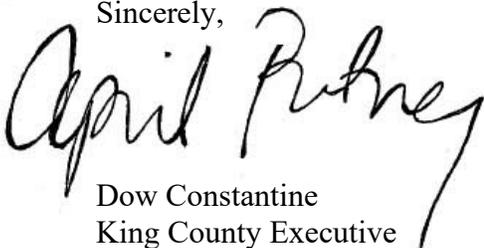
Adoption of this proposed ordinance, which will ratify the negotiated CBA, advances the King County Strategic Plan's guiding principles and goals of efficient, accountable regional and local government by increasing management flexibility in providing and modifying nurse work schedules, including terms for evening and weekend coverage. Employment terms are designed to continue to develop a highly engaged, diverse, and culturally responsive and high performing workforce. The CBA will advance the Strategic Plan goal of improving the health and well-being of people in our community by ensuring vulnerable and at-risk populations in our community continue to receive nursing care and services.

A supplemental budget authority request is necessary for this CBA and will be transmitted at the same time as this proposed legislation. A complete breakdown of the costs associated with this agreement can be found in the accompanying fiscal note, which has been reviewed by the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. This important legislation will ratify the negotiated CBA which provides standardized working conditions and the competitive wages that are necessary to recruit and retain the qualified employees needed to further the nursing related services provided by the County.

If your staff have questions, please contact Megan Pedersen, Director, Office of Labor Relations, at 206-263-2898.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

for

Enclosure

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cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

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

Megan Pedersen, Director, Office of Labor Relations