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August 31, 2021

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

I am pleased to transmit for your review and consideration an annual report pursuant to King County Ordinance 16959 containing the evaluation of planning assumptions used by the Department of Local Services Permitting Division to set its fixed fee dollar amounts for development permits.

The principal finding documented in this report is that the planning assumptions used to calculate fixed fee amounts have been largely accurate. Division timekeeping for the past 12 months supports this finding. Generally, actual average processing time for most permits was within one hour of the expected processing time. While no fee changes are recommended at this time based on the findings in this report, this reporting process provides a framework for the ongoing evaluation of fees and the potential basis for fee adjustment proposals, should any be deemed necessary in the future.

The work outlined in the enclosed report supports the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government. As an agency that is primarily funded by permit fees, accurately and transparently setting fixed fee amounts is vital to matching permit fee revenues with the cost of providing permitting services.

Preparation of the report cost approximately \$400.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Jim Chan, Director, Permitting Division, Department of Local Services, at 206-477-0385.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Interim Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Performance, Strategy and Budget
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive
John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services (DLS)
Jim Chan, Director, Permitting Division, DLS