



## King County

### Dow Constantine

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April 12, 2011

The Honorable Mike McGinn  
Mayor of Seattle  
Seattle City Hall  
P.O. Box 94749  
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Dear Mayor McGinn:

As you know, our offices recently have been engaged in an intensive effort to develop a framework for a durable, long-term partnership between the City of Seattle and King County on jail services. I am pleased to enclose with this letter two originals of a document that establishes principles for negotiation of a new Jail Services Agreement (JSA) between the County and the City. Our signatures on this document will lead to negotiation of a new JSA between the City and the County that continues our long-standing partnership on jail services and strengthens that partnership in important new ways.

As articulated in the principles, through a new JSA, the County would make a durable commitment to provide jail beds to the City through 2030 to meet the City's forecasted misdemeanor inmate needs. Such an agreement would maintain significant operational advantages well into the future for the City's courts, law enforcement, and attorneys: the downtown Seattle location of the County's correctional facility, literally across the street from the City's municipal justice center, is uniquely positioned to house the City's pretrial inmates. For the County, the new JSA would provide for predictable use of capacity available in our jail facilities, leading to greater operational efficiency through economies of scale. Both jurisdictions would benefit financially through reasonable and predictable fees for services.

The principles contained in the attached document also reflect the long-standing interest by the City and the County in a wide variety of diversion, alternative, and re-entry programs. These programs ensure efficient use of public funds by safely keeping low-risk populations out of jail so that capacity is available for those who pose a true risk to public safety. Through a new JSA, the City and County would maintain and strengthen our collaboration on diversion, alternative, and reentry programs as well as on jail population forecasting. The

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principles outline unique mechanisms for a new JSA that would allow for flexibility by both jurisdictions to accommodate changes in jail population forecasts and contracting. These mechanisms would help to ensure that enough capacity is available in the long term, that new capacity is not built unless needed, and that, despite the long duration of the new JSA, neither jurisdiction would face ongoing, unmitigated financial consequences if jail populations decline.

Nearly one year ago, you and I joined with County and City councilmembers and other regional leaders in a commitment to work together so that Seattle, along with other north end cities, could end the siting process that was underway for building a new jail. The attached Principles for Negotiation of a New Jail Services Agreement provides a framework through which the City and the County can deliver on this commitment to the region over the long term. I respectfully request that you sign both originals and return to me for my signature. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

cc: Carl Marquardt, City of Seattle, Office of the Mayor  
Beth Goldberg, Director, City of Seattle, City Budget Office  
Claudia Balducci, Director, King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention  
Carrie S. Cihak, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, King County Executive's Office (KCEO)  
Sung Yang, Director of External Affairs and Government Relations, KCEO  
Dwight Dively, Director, King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB)