



November 3, 2025

King County Council
516 3rd Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear King County Councilmembers,

As representatives of neighborhood business districts throughout the City of Seattle, we are writing to request that the King County Council fully fund the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) and supply the necessary resources to adequately carry out this important work on behalf of King County residents.

As community leaders that work tirelessly to help keep our neighborhoods safe, we are acutely aware of the downstream impacts that result from an inadequately funded criminal justice system. It is important to note that this request does not call for a reduction in resources from the Department of Defense (DPD); it asserts that the PAO funding and resources should be on par with that of DPD.

Specifically, we are requesting funding for the PAO that will provide a total of 58 new positions:

- 21 new deputy prosecutor positions;
- 21 new paralegal and legal service professional positions; and
- 16 new victim advocate positions.

At the present time, DPD has at least 194 public defenders funded by the General Fund. The Executive's proposed budget adds 17 additional public defenders and \$8 million for expert services to DPD's budget. For comparison, the PAO has 144 current criminal practice Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys. If DPD receives 17 additional public defender positions, DPD will then have 67 more attorneys than the PAO has criminal DPAs funded by the General Fund.

The PAO's request for 58 new victim advocates, paralegals and deputy prosecutors is not extraordinary. Nor does this request consider any reductions for the DPD. It simply establishes a fair and reasonable baseline that will allow the KCPAO to do its work effectively and efficiently.

Sincerely,

Mike Stewart, Executive Director
Ballard Alliance

Lisa Howard, Executive Director
Alliance for Pioneer Square

Erin Goodman, Executive Director
SODO BIA

Chris Mackay, Executive Director
West Seattle Junction Association

Don Blakeney, Executive Director
U-District Partnership