



# KING COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

May 25, 2017

## Follow Up on King County Approach to Driver's Relicensing May Need to Evolve

TO:

Metropolitan  
King County  
Councilmembers

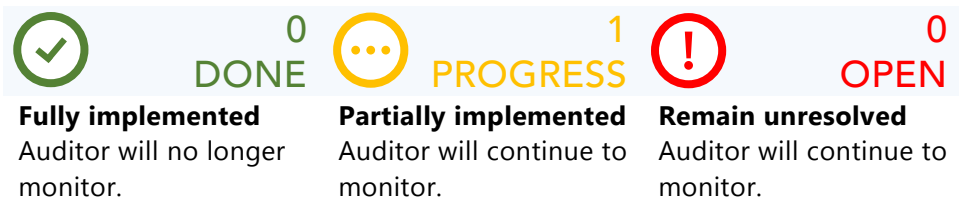
FROM:

Kymber Waltmunson,  
County Auditor

**The King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) has made progress toward establishing strategies to reduce the number of county residents with a suspended driver's license.** While the statewide relicensing workgroup recommended taking steps to establish a statewide relicensing program, bills that would have advanced this effort did not make it out of state legislature committees. King County District and Municipal Courts launched a unified payment program in October 2017 that makes consolidating fines in local participating courts easier. In the absence of a statewide program however, clients who receive tickets outside of these participating courts still face strong logistical challenges to relicensing. For the purposes of this follow-up we consider that there are no clear plans for a statewide relicensing program at this time that will help to reduce the number of people with suspended licenses in King County. As such, more work may need to be done within King County.

DCHS has made progress on our recommendation to partner with King County District Court to better allocate relicensing resources to reduce the number of people with a suspended driver's license in King County. They have encouraged consistent relicensing services through effective contract monitoring and collaboration with District Court to ensure relicensing referrals continue without interruption during staff changes. Collaboration with District Court has been informal however, and the number of people receiving relicensing services has not significantly increased. By working more closely with District Court to identify and implement strategies that maximize current relicensing resources and outcomes, DCHS can better serve the many King County residents with a suspended license.

The status of the one recommendation from this audit is "Progress".



Please see below for details on the implementation status of this recommendation.

## Recommendation 1

PROGRESS 

**In response to the outcome of the statewide relicensing work group, the Department of Community and Human Services should partner with the King County District Court to identify strategies on how best to allocate resources to reduce the number of people with a suspended driver's license in King County.**

STATUS UPDATE: While the statewide relicensing workgroup recommended taking steps to establish a statewide relicensing program, bills that would have advanced this effort did not make it out of state legislature committees. King County District and Municipal Courts launched a unified payment program in October 2017 that makes consolidating fines in local participating courts easier. In the absence of a statewide program however, clients who receive tickets outside of these participating courts still face strong logistical challenges to relicensing.

DCHS has worked with Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing (LELO) to increase outreach to clients with a suspended license at its Tukwila WorkSource site. This has allowed them to reach clients that may not have engaged with relicensing efforts through the court system. DCHS has also worked with District Court to review the referral process of individuals with suspended licenses, although this collaboration has been limited and informal, and has been focused on ensuring that current referral processes continue without interruptions. While its work with LELO has been effective in ensuring LELO meets relicensing goals, the current strategy does not significantly increase the number of people who regain their license in King County. LELO serves a population that has challenges with relicensing, but the number of people they serve are a small fraction of the number of people with license suspensions for nonpayment of traffic tickets.

In order to complete this recommendation, DCHS should identify and implement strategies that can directly reduce the number of people with a suspended driver's license in King County. These efforts may be separate from and in addition to, or in collaboration with LELO's efforts.

Kayvon Zadeh, Management Auditor, conducted this review. Please contact Kayvon at 206-477-5180 if you have any questions about the issues discussed in this letter.

cc: Dow Constantine, King County Executive  
 Casey Sixkiller, Chief Operating Officer, King County Executive's Office (KCEO)  
 Rhonda Berry, Deputy Executive for Operations  
 Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget, KCEO  
 Rachel Smith, Chief of Staff, KCEO  
 Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services (DES)  
 Ken Guy, Division Director, Finance & Business Operations Division, DES  
 Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)  
 Steve Andryszewski, Chief of Financial Officer, DCHS  
 Stephanie Moyes, Youth and Family Services Manager, DCHS  
 Joe Hall, Fiscal Services Administrator, DCHS  
 Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council, King County Council  
 Lakeidra Williams, Administrative Staff Assistant, KCEO