



King County

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Treatment courts are dedicated to preserving families and supporting individuals with substance use disorder and other behavioral health disorders in transforming their lives; and

WHEREAS, individuals involved in the criminal legal and dependency systems are resilient and capable of change when provided the right combination of support, resources, structure, and accountability to support long-term recovery; and

WHEREAS, amid a growing fentanyl epidemic and mental health crisis, there is an ongoing need to address crime and child neglect exacerbated by behavioral health disorders and to support effective pathways out of the legal system and towards recovery and family reunification; and

WHEREAS, the King County Drug Diversion Court, King County Family Treatment Court, King County Regional Mental Health Court, King County Regional Veterans Court, Juvenile Therapeutic Response & Accountability Court, and several District Court Community Courts are treatment courts that provide therapeutic alternatives to traditional case processing; and

WHEREAS, the King County Executive and King County Councilmembers have recognized the value of these King County therapeutic courts since their inception, providing the funding and support needed to ensure their success; and

WHEREAS, treatment courts counter systemic racism by helping to prevent incarceration and loss of parental rights for people of color who are disproportionately represented within the criminal legal and child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, King County's treatment courts work, with studies showing participation results in key outcomes, such as significant crime reduction, higher likelihood of success in treatment, greater rates of family reunification, increased employment, and lower rates of psychiatric hospitalization and emergency department usage; and

WHEREAS, treatment courts result in cost savings, with studies by the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Washington State Institute of Public Policy, and the University of Washington showing a \$4 to \$5.56 return for every \$1 invested;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council and the King County Executive, proclaim May 2023 as

TREATMENT COURT MONTH

in King County and recognize that treatment courts create safer, healthier communities that benefit us all.

DATED this twenty-third day of May 2023.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Chair

Rod Dembowski, District One

Girmay Zahiray, District Two

Sarah Perry, District Three

Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four, Council Vice-Chair

Claudia Balducci, District Six

Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven

Joe McDermott, District Eight

Reagan Dunn, District Nine, Council Vice-Chair