



King County

Reagan Dunn

Councilmember, District 9

Metropolitan King County Council

October 31, 2025

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive
401 5th Ave. Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Executive Braddock,

In the wake of the troubling audit of the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), I am deeply concerned that DCHS is not taking the necessary steps to execute the ongoing internal investigations of allegations of waste and potential fraud.

I share the concerns of the King County Auditor that specific cases are not being pursued in a timely manner and join her in calling for this investigation to be managed within the Office of the King County Ombuds - who will act independently – rather than being handled internally by DCHS. ***See attached email from Auditor.*** I continue to be concerned that the stories of waste and potential fraud are not being addressed, including reports of possible whistleblower retaliation. I have already expressed my concerns with the agency that there may be a culture of silencing those who have a concern about the use of funds.

Even after the public attention has passed, King County must continue to actively pursue these allegations of waste and potential fraud for the benefit of taxpayers, our employees, and the general public. Please hand these investigations over to the independent King County Office of the Ombuds to ensure the appearance of fairness and impartiality that the public deserves.

Sincerely,

Reagan Dunn
Vice Chair, King County Council

CC: Kymber Waltmunson, King County Auditor
Jeremy Bell, King County Office of the Ombuds
Kelly Rider, Department of Community & Human services

From: Waltmunson, Kymber <Kymber.Waltmunson@kingcounty.gov>

Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 at 9:13 AM

To: Rider, Kelly <krider@kingcounty.gov>, Dively, Dwight <Dwight.Dively@kingcounty.gov>, Hills, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hills@kingcounty.gov>, Guy, Ken <Ken.Guy@kingcounty.gov>, Sutton, Eben <Eben.Sutton@kingcounty.gov>, Lo, Khieng (Kevin) <klo@kingcounty.gov>, Green, Amber <Amber.Green@kingcounty.gov>, Bell, Jeremy <Jeremy.Bell@kingcounty.gov>

Cc: Zahilay, Girmay <Girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov>, Lewis, Rhonda (she/her) <Rhonda.Lewis@kingcounty.gov>, Cirkovich, Stephanie (she/her) <Stephanie.Cirkovich@kingcounty.gov>, Abernethy, Shawn <sm.abernethy@kingcounty.gov>, Ko, Megan <Megan.Ko@kingcounty.gov>

Subject: DCHS Contract Investigations Plan

Hello everyone,

I am writing this email to share my significant concerns and strong preferences regarding the timely, comprehensive completion of investigations of potential improper acts and payments we identified during our audit of DCHS contracts.

I understand that you are planning to meet and discuss the approach to managing a contracted investigator to complete the 19 items we forwarded to DCHS. **Our role is to ensure that the investigations are complete and that findings are referred to the proper entities as appropriate.**

A brief, incomplete timeline:

April 11 – Auditor met with DCHS and FBOD to alert to issues

May 14 – Auditor, DCHS, Ombuds meet to discuss an investigation plan

June 16 – Auditors formally refer 19 items for DCHS investigation

July 11 – DCHS engages an investigator for ethics investigation

August 8 – DCHS provides a deadline for 4 of the 19 of September 30

September 16 – Met to discuss DCHS findings for 4 of 19 investigation items – Auditor determined that investigation was not complete, referred back to DCHS

October 7 – Met to discuss draft of ethics investigation – Investigation was deemed incomplete, sent back to investigator

November 3 meeting to discuss results of 15 investigations items cancelled

It is unfortunate that we are six months past alerting DCHS to significant issues and it feels like we are just beginning.

I understand that there are plans to retain a second investigator for the issues that are not being handled by the initial investigator.

I request that this investigator be managed within the Office of the Ombuds. The Ombuds is an independent function whose expertise, and core function, is to investigate improper acts. They are skilled, competent, experienced, and unbiased. I am deeply concerned that these

issues have stagnated for so long. Everyone involved deserves a timely, complete, and independent investigation into the issues.

Please let me know by November 7 how you plan to proceed and the timeline.

Best,
Kymber

Kymber Waltnunson | she/her

King County Auditor

[King County Auditor's Office](#)

206-477-1043

★ [share](#) your audit ideas

✓ [sign up](#) to receive Auditor's Office reports