

**From:** DOC WRExpand KC

**Sent:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:25 AM

**To:** DOC WRExpand KC <DOCWRExpandKC@DOC1.WA.GOV>;

**Cc:** Jacobs, Brandy L. (DOC); Barclay, Jeremy S. (DOC); Armbruster, Danielle E. (DOC); Hays, Whitney J. (DOC); Kucza, Mark A. (DOC); mschindler; Rodside, Gar L. (DOC); Tony Lindgren, PE; Brian Little; Idso, Chris L. (DOC)

**Subject:** Ending King County LAC and Work Release Expansion Efforts; for now

Good Morning, King County LAC members and interested stakeholders,

I wanted to write to you to provide a status report concerning our efforts to site additional work release beds in King County, and to notify you of the cancellation of King County LAC meetings going forward.

We learned late last week that the City of SeaTac has passed a one-year moratorium prohibiting establishment of a work release in their city. That action signaled that our efforts to collaborate with the city and local stakeholders in the area had been brought to an abrupt standstill. Our plan to provide targeted outreach in the form of an informational session(s) for the hospitality and hoteling businesses along Int’L Blvd specific to their concerns about our efforts and this site would be put on hold. At that time, we reached out to our attorneys to determine any options available to the department in response to the passage of the moratorium, now or in the future. Then, earlier this week, we were notified that the owner of the site on International Boulevard under evaluation in SeaTac for some reason has decided to no longer pursue development of the property into a work release. This means we no longer have any potentially viable new sites in permissible areas with an owner willing to work with us to develop a site for us to lease in King County.

As I believe you are aware, this work is not easy. We do not expect we will be able to start again with a new potential site (even if one was identified today) and bring a new facility into fruition inside of 18 months to 2 years. While we had been granted “some” grace on our budget and timeline due to covid pandemic impacts to the expansion project schedule, we have no alternative, at this time, other than to cease the search for a site in King County. For now. I fully expect that at some point in the (probably not-too-distant future), DOC will again be mandated by the legislature to provide greater partial confinement capacity in the form of work release or reentry center beds in King County in areas where prison releases take place, especially in view of the closing of prison units across the state due to the cost of total prison confinement. As you now know, we are very particular concerning who is selected for placement in Work Release. Despite our screening, there is no shortage of Washingtonians who are under DOC jurisdiction we know to be both suitable and deserving of the work release program as a pathway to productive and law-abiding lives as citizen members back in their communities.

On behalf of everyone on the Expansion Team, including the Executive Leadership of the agency which has supported these efforts at every turn, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your participation at the table. Your willingness to help us better understand community concerns and, in most cases, to work with us to learn about and support the work release program, is a direct indication of your commitment to working together with others toward the goal of safe communities.

Thank you.

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