



May 29, 2020

The Honorable Dow Constantine  
King County Chinook Building  
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Seattle, WA 98104  
[kcexec@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kcexec@kingcounty.gov)  
[rachael.smithngcounty.gov](mailto:rachael.smithngcounty.gov)

Dr. Jeff Duchin, Health Officer, Seattle and King County  
401 - 5th Ave, Suite 1300  
Seattle, WA 98104  
[jeff.duchin@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jeff.duchin@kingcounty.gov)

Patty Hayes, Director of Public Health, Seattle and King County  
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Seattle, WA 98104  
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RE: COVID-19 Phase II

Dear Executive Constantine, Dr. Duchin, and Director Hayes:

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the health and well being of King County residents during this time of crises.

We are writing to ask that you consider moving the real estate industry into Phase II, with the related protocols developed by the Governor's Office.<sup>1</sup> We will fully support and comply with these protocols and are confident they will keep our members and their customers safe. We represent more than 9,700 residential and commercial Realtors in King County. Our goal is to maintain consistency of the rules by which brokers operate throughout the Puget Sound counties and to communicate clearly to them the need for adherence to those rules.

Real estate is a low-risk/high-value enterprise due to its ability to carefully manage and limit human contact and its vital role in the economy. Our work is appointment-only, enabling a great deal of environmental control. In addition, a functioning real estate market is important to the daily lives of individuals and businesses. It is integral to the larger economy --- particularly when the economy is

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19Phase2RealEstateGuidelines.pdf>

weakened as residential and commercial sales and leases enable individuals to relocate or downsize and businesses reassess their commercial space needs.

As with other sectors, King County is the center of our state's real estate economy. This is true for the number and value of real estate transactions, but also for the infrastructure of the real estate economy. Most everyone who touches a real estate deal --- from brokers to bankers, appraiser, and title officers --- has a major presence in King County. In this way, King County impacts the entire state.

Although in-person commercial real estate activity is now prohibited, in-person real estate activity will be critical to many businesses preparing for Phase II reopening and in need of modifying their lease agreements, downsizing their space requirements, or selling.

Phase II allowances for residential real estate are modest, but important. They will offer greater efficiency and market fluidity, without significant risk.

- Three rather than two people for in-person real estate activities will make that activity more efficient and reduce the duration of in-person contact.
- Measured opening of real estate offices will increase public health and safety by enabling communication in a controlled environment.
- Most importantly, consistency among urban counties will best ensure compliance protocols and enforcement as our members work throughout central Puget Sound.

We wish to support your work and collaborate in any manner we are able.

Sincerely,



Russell Hokanson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Seattle King County REALTORS



Chris McDougall  
President & CEO  
Commercial Brokers Association



Erik Nelson  
Board President  
Washington State Commercial Association of REALTORS



Tiffini Connell  
Board Chair  
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*Geoff Wood*

Geoff Wood  
CEO  
Windermere Services Company