King County

April 23, 2020

Justice Barbara Madsen
Washington State Supreme Court
Temple of Justice, P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dawn Marie Rubio
Administrative Office of the Courts
1112 Quince Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501-1170

Dear Justice Madsen and Ms. Rubio,

We write regarding the JIS proposal to distribute the reduced equipment replacement funding per size of county.

We agree that counties and cities – courts of all sizes – have counted on JIS equipment replacement funding for years - since probably the 1980's. Small courts as well as big courts depend on that equipment funding and would struggle to make up the hole of missing it with local funds.

We are frustrated by the small amount of information provided to support the decision point proposal in the JIS meeting materials, and the lateness of receiving this information. We write with questions about how this proposal came to be. We would like to know:

1. Were other options considered for how to distribute the funding reduction? If so, what were they?
2. Were the funded projects reviewed for any funding that might not get spent, for possible funding of equipment replacement project? Please provide an accounting of those projects.
3. What courts do you project would be impacted by the proposal? How far would the funding go?
4. Why wasn't additional ERR funding requested in this year's budget?
5. Why weren't other options for the ERR distribution given to the JIS committee?

We request to get these answers before the JIS committee has this decision before them. Please contact any of us should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Othniel Palomino
King County District Court

Paul Sherfey
King County Superior Court

Barbara Miner
King County Superior Court Clerk

Cc: Judge Susan Mahoney, Presiding Judge, King County District Court
Judge Jim Rogers, Presiding Judge, King County Superior Court