



August 25, 2014

Chief Justice Barbara A. Madsen
Washington State Supreme Court
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Docket No. 90110-4, *In re: the Matter of D.W., et al., v. Franciscan Health Care Systems, et al.*
Joint Motion to Stay Issuance of Mandate

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

As Mayor of the City of Seattle, I write to respectfully urge the Supreme Court to exercise its authority, as requested by the State of Washington and others, to stay the issuance of the mandate issued in the above-referenced case for 120 days. The City of Seattle supports the State's position because it needs additional time to manage the immediate impact to Seattle residents as a result of the Court's mandate.

While the City of Seattle was not a party to the underlying case, it is one of several cities that will be impacted by the Court's original mandate ruling. As a result the City has been working closely with King County to ensure that as the release date of August 27, 2014, approaches, appropriate strategies have been vetted and implemented to address the influx of high-needs patients into Seattle. King County has estimated that 24 individuals are likely to be immediately impacted by the ruling statewide, with approximately 8 of those individuals residing within the City of Seattle. These individuals are considered high-risk to both themselves and others, and it is imperative that safety net resources be employed to ensure proper care of these high-needs patients upon their release. Although the City itself does not provide mental and behavioral health services, the City has a high interest in the success of the mental healthcare system. In this instance, the 120-day extension to the ordered mandate will facilitate the City's ability to manage the immediate impact to Seattle residents. An extension will permit the City of Seattle, and other affected municipalities, to continue working closely with County colleagues to ensure alignment of strategies and services in anticipation of the mandate implementation date, and release of these individuals into the community.

I thank you for your consideration and, again, urge you to consider the State's request for a brief extension to permit cities, like the City of Seattle, to continue its work of preparing for the mandated implementation date.

Sincerely,

Mayor Edward B. Murray