

2019 - 2020 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
38	3	A	1

Budget Action Title: Request that the Executive submit a report on special events cost recovery

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: González, M. Lorena

Councilmembers:

Staff Analyst: Greg Doss

Date	Total	BC	SB	TM	LG	BH	LH	RJ	DJ	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

SPD provides police staffing at many types of special events held in Seattle. In 2016, SPD personnel worked at 724 special events and earned a total of \$10.3 Million in wages. In 2017, the City Auditor published a report on [Police Staffing and Cost Recovery](#), which made the following observations:

- 1) The department’s cost recovery methodologies do not include all expenses incurred as a result of the special events work, including wages paid, benefits expenses, vehicle and equipment usage expenses, and incidental expenses (e.g., food, water, supplies);
- 2) The cost recovery processes outlined in SMC 15.52.070, including the \$67 Police Fee, does not fully reimburse SPD’s costs for staffing permitted special events; and
- 3) The City Council, in conjunction with Executive departments, should review the definitions of Community and Mixed Free Speech events in the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 15.52 and consider whether any updates to these definitions are necessary to improve the City’s cost recovery rate for police service.

By February 1, 2019, the Executive is requested to convene an interdepartmental team (IDT) comprised of representatives from the Mayor’s Office, City Budget Office, Seattle Police Department (SPD), City Special Event’s Office (SEO) and with Council staff for the Chair of the committee responsible for public safety matters, Council Central Staff and City Auditor staff serving in an advisory capacity.

The IDT shall by July 1, 2019 submit to the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, and New Americans Committee and the Council Central Staff Director a report that: a) identifies a single cost recovery rate for the

department's MOU and event billing processes; b) recommends changes to SMC 15.52.070 that may include the number of hours that SPD bills for events as well as the \$67 Police Fee; and c) recommendations for modifying the definitions of Community and Mixed Free Speech events such that there is a greater cost recovery from events that have significant commercial activity.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans, and Education Committee

Date Due to Council: July 1, 2019