

# 2020 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Agenda

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CJ	26	A	2

**Budget Action Title:** Request that SPD develop a reporting mechanism that accurately captures race data

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Lorena González

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Bruce Harrell, Kshama Sawant, Debora Juarez, Mike O'Brien, Sally Bagshaw

Staff Analyst: Carlos Lugo

Date		Total	LH	BH	KS	AP	DJ	MO	SB	TM	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

## Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests that the Seattle Police Department (SPD) work with the Seattle Municipal Court (SMC), and the City Attorney's Office (LAW) to develop alternate reporting mechanisms that accurately capture race data and ethnicity, including but not limited to accurately capturing information on the Latinx community.

This SLI requests that SPD submit a report to the Council, the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities and New Americans Committee (or successor committee) and the Director of Council Central Staff by July 1, 2020. The report should include:

- (1) The evaluation of one or more alternative reporting mechanisms that are developed;
- (2) A recommendation for which alternative reporting mechanism should be used and an explanation of why; and
- (3) Any resources needed to implement the recommended approach.

## Background:

In December 2015, the City Council established a Prisoner and Community Corrections Re-entry Workgroup (sometimes referred to as the Seattle Reentry Workgroup) to coordinate and strengthen the City's efforts to assist the reentry process for people returning from incarceration (Resolution 31637). The Seattle Reentry Workgroup included representatives from community organizations, individuals living with criminal histories, as well as King County departmental staff (Public Defense and Community & Human Services) and City of Seattle staff (Seattle Municipal Court, City Council, Executive departments, and the City Attorney's Office).

As part of its mandate, the Seattle Reentry Workgroup was tasked with developing a set of policies, ordinances, strategies, or programs that the City can implement to facilitate reentry and remove unnecessary barriers to employment, housing, and other benefits. The Seattle Reentry Workgroup released its final report in October 2018. In its findings, the Workgroup stated that SPD officers do not

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consistently use the ethnicity field in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This results in Latinx community members being labeled under racial categories such as White, Black, or Unknown. As this data is then used by SPD, SMC, and LAW, the current reporting mechanism does not allow for an accurate assessment how the criminal legal system impacts the Latinx community or whether the community is disproportionately represented in the system.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):**

Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans & Education

**Date Due to Council:**

July 1, 2020