

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
CBO	Linda Taylor-Manning 4-8376	Linda Taylor-Manning 4-8376

* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.

1. BILL SUMMARY

- a. Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE related to civil legal aid services; authorizing an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for Public Defense Services with King County, previously authorized under Ordinance 125411, to carry out a program for civil legal services for indigent clients according to the terms of Resolution 31802.
- b. Summary and background of the Legislation:** The City and King County are Parties to an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for Public Defense Services which became effective on January 1, 2018. This legislation authorizes the Director of the City Budget Office to amend the ILA to expand civil legal services for indigent misdemeanants in Seattle Municipal Court to include direct representation on civil cases. This change in scope to the ILA requires approval of both City and County Councils.

In 2016, Council funded \$440,000 for a 2-part pilot program in 2017-2018 for civil legal services attorneys to coordinate with the criminal representation by considering the collateral impacts of plea agreements to help meet the client's needs.

- For the first part, the civil legal services attorneys would be hired through a contract with KC DPD to provide *legal advice only*.
- The second part of the pilot required KC DPD to develop and report to the Council on criteria for providing *direct civil legal representation* to SMC public defense clients on housing matters such as eviction proceedings and Council would approve of the proposed criteria with a resolution.

On May 19, 2018, City Council passed a Civil Legal Services Resolution 31802 detailing the criteria by which KC DPD would provide *direct representation services to clients* and calling for the CRUEDA Committee to explore sponsoring the creation of a civil legal aid coordination group comprised of stakeholders who may consider policy development related to eviction issues.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- a. Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ___ Yes **X** No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ___ Yes **X** No

- b. **Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**
None.
- c. **Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**
None.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
No.
- b. **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.
- c. **Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**
No.
- d. **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**
No.
- e. **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.
- f. **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?**

The amendment to the public defense ILA will allow the Civil Legal Aid Program to work with vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities. In 2015, a “Civil Legal Needs Study Update” was commissioned by the Washington State Supreme Court. The Study found that 71% of low-income households in Washington experience one or more civil legal problems each year; at least 76% of these households do not obtain legal assistance to resolve these problems; and, people of color face higher rates of civil legal problems than the low-income population as a whole.

- g. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program’s desired goal(s).**
This program is a part of a two-year pilot initiated through a 2017 Council Green Sheet (352-1-C-2).

List attachments/exhibits below: