

2020 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Agenda

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CJ	22	A	1

Budget Action Title: Request that Executive departments study the feasibility of developing City master leasing options in response to Reentry Workgroup recommendations

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: Lorena González

Council Members:

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 a report from the Executive addressing recommendations made by the Seattle Reentry Workgroup on increasing housing for those living with criminal histories. Specifically, this SLI requests that:

- (1) The Human Services Department (HSD) work with the Office of Housing (OH) and the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) to study the feasibility of developing a City master leasing option, with a focus on the provision of housing for those experiencing re-entry; and
- (2) The Executive submit a report by July 01, 2020 on findings and recommendations to the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities and New Americans Committee (or successor committee) and the Director of Council Central Staff.

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. It contained a series of recommendations, including several related to increasing housing accessibility for individuals with criminal histories. Among the recommendations regarding housing, the Seattle Reentry Workgroup asked that the City "examine the

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feasibility of developing City master leasing options from private landlords with a goal of increasing housing for individuals living with criminal history and/or those exiting from incarceration.”

Responsible Council Committee(s):

Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans & Education

Date Due to Council:

July 1, 2019