

2023 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
LAW	601	A	001-2023

Budget Action Title: Request that LAW provide quarterly reports on sexual assault cases in the Domestic Violence Unit

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Lisa Herbold

Council Members:

Staff Analyst: Karina Bull

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	SN
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) would request that the City Attorney's Office (LAW) provide quarterly reports on sexual assault cases in the Criminal Division's Domestic Violence Unit (DVU).

The DVU, comprised of attorneys, victim advocates, and support staff, works on cases involving misdemeanor intimate partner domestic violence, elder abuse, and child abuse/neglect cases. The DVU also handles cases involving sexual assault, stalking, cyber stalking, indecent exposure, and child endangerment that could meet the threshold for felony prosecution.

The 2023-2024 Proposed Budget includes funding and position authority to add 2.0 FTE to the DVU for an Assistant City Prosecutor (ACP) and Senior ACP to add capacity for an increased workload of domestic violence cases; ensure consistency in filing, training, and public safety; focus on tracking felony referrals; and handle a caseload of high-risk offenders.

This SLI would provide Council with regular updates on the DVU's staffing and handling of sexual assault cases. The reports should include:

- A status update on whether the employees hired for the new ACP positions have completed the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission client-centered training for serving sexual assault survivors;
- The number of sexual assault cases assigned to each ACP position in the DVU;
- The number of sexual assault cases prosecuted; and
- The number of cases with sexual assault allegations that were not charged as sexual assault.

The department should include this information in the quarterly reports required by Seattle Municipal Code 3.46.020 and should submit the reports to the Chair of Public Safety and Human Services Committee and the Central Staff Director by May 1, 2023, August 1, 2023, and November 1, 2023.

Responsible Council Committee(s):

Public Safety and Human Services

Date Due to Council:

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May 1, 2023