

**2017 - 2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent**

**Ready for Notebook**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
206	1	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Creation of special task force on South Park public safety

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: González, M. Lorena

Councilmembers: Herbold; Juarez

Staff Analyst: Amy Tsai

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

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

The Council requests that the Executive convene a Special Task Force of South Park residents to formulate and report to Council recommendations regarding the public safety and vitality of that neighborhood. It is the Council’s understanding that the written report of the Special Task Force would, as a general matter, accomplish the following:

1. Identify strategies for a new model of neighborhood policing, which will build on the micro-policing plans and community policing plans initiated by Chief Katherine O’Toole. The strategies should be replicable in other neighborhoods throughout the City, while flexible enough to reflect the unique situations or dynamics of other diverse neighborhoods; and
2. Identify strategies for a culturally and linguistically responsive data-driven approach to improving the City’s relations to and effectiveness with the South Park neighborhood, which will also inform the City’s engagement with all other neighborhoods.

By January 31, 2017, the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, and New Americans Committee, after consulting with Councilmembers, will provide to the Executive a list of recommended Special Task Force participants for consideration. The participants could include, for example, youth and adult residents of South Park, community-based organizations serving the South Park neighborhood or with expertise in the quality of life and public safety issues facing South Park residents, the Seattle Police Department, the Department of Neighborhoods, the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, and representatives from the Council and Mayor’s Office.

By June 1, 2017, the Executive should provide the Council with a written report that identifies innovative strategies that address the following areas:

1. Public safety and policing issues that will focus on:

- a. Challenges associated with geographic distance from the Southwest Precinct, particularly impacts on police visibility, proactive policing, and 911 service responsiveness;
  - b. Strategies to improve 911 service responsiveness and capacity challenges related to multi-lingual and multicultural reporting;
  - c. Strategies to increase police visibility and positive engagement with the neighborhood and community;
  - d. Strategies to improve public safety education given a predominantly multi-lingual, immigrant/refugee neighborhood population;
  - e. Strategies for applying data-driven approaches to improving public safety that is culturally and linguistically responsive to South Park residents; and
  - f. Strategies to engage youth in this neighborhood population.
2. Development of neighborhood vitality metrics that include:
    - a. Identification of baseline data around crime and social, health and housing services in the neighborhood;
    - b. Developing baseline data and metrics for economic development;
    - c. Strategies for addressing deficiencies, if any, in availability of neighborhood vitality metrics, such as baseline data around crime, social, health, housing services, and economic development;
    - d. Community resiliency investments; whether programmatic, capital, or staffing; and
    - e. Strategies to improve the City's responsiveness to neighborhood concerns in a culturally and linguistically responsive way.

**Background:**

South Park is a racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse neighborhood geographically surrounded by Seattle's industrial area in south-central Seattle south of the Georgetown neighborhood and across the Duwamish River.

According to the 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, South Park has about 4,200 residents, including:

- 43 percent Latinos;
- 15 percent Asian-Pacific Islanders; and
- 30 percent White/Caucasian.

It is significant to note that 25 percent of South Park residents are foreign born as compared to 18 percent for the City of Seattle. Out of about 1,000 foreign-born South Park residents, 66 percent are not U.S. citizens, 54 percent were born in Latin America and 33 percent were born in Asia. Accordingly, 45 percent of South Park residents speak a language other than English at home:

- 30 percent speak Spanish; and
- 13 percent speak Asian or Pacific Islander languages.

South Park has historically been a working class community with the median income of its 1,400 households coming in at \$36,875 per year as compared to \$67,365 for the City of Seattle generally. With an

unemployment rate that is about 11 percent, 35 percent of the population and 29 percent of families in South Park live below the federal poverty level (compared to 14 percent and 8 percent for the City of Seattle, respectively), with 54 percent of South Park residents having to pay 35 percent or more of their household income towards rent. Forty-one percent of those households contain minors, and 15 percent have one or more people that are 65 or older.

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

**Date Due to Council:** January 31, 2017 and June 1, 2017