

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

**Ready for Notebook**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
79	2	B	1

**Budget Action Title:** P-Patch program report by DON

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: Harris-Talley, Kirsten

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Juarez

Staff Analyst: Lish Whitson

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

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests that the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) prepare a comprehensive analysis and report on the P-Patch Community Gardening Program that focuses on operations and maintenance of the City’s 90 P-Patch community gardens and 3,055 plots.

DON is requested to conduct a thorough analysis which includes a program, staffing, and financial assessment of the P-Patch Program. The scope of this assessment will evaluate (1) existing short and long-term program and staff goals; (2) program placement either in a City Department and/or with an external entity; (3) current programming gaps and opportunities in community gardening in Seattle; (4) mechanisms to improve the P-patch customer experience while addressing City goals including equity and inclusion; (5) mechanisms to reduce duplication of work among City departments and community groups; (6) staffing adjustments to necessary to meet proposed goals; and (7) capacity and ability to implement program changes.

In preparing a report and recommendation for improved operations and maintenance of the P-Patch gardens, DON is asked to evaluate a number of considerations and do a sensitivity analysis of options:

1. **Cost of Services:** Provide a detailed accounting of annual operations and maintenance costs for P-Patches as well as an assessment of facility capital costs for maintenance and rehabilitation, including donated time and materials by community members and other supporters. Council also requests that DON identify any efficiencies that can be achieved through innovative programmatic approaches, including raising fees, leveraging partnerships, addressing the interest list, and examination of transferring program.
2. **Level/Standard of Care:** Provide the Council with information on what level/standard of care and maintenance DON is currently providing to the P-Patch gardens directly and through other department

contributions. Council requests that DON work with partner agencies and other users to determine desired levels/standards of care and maintenance.

3. **Sensitivity of Options:** Provide an analysis of how different operation options may impact use of the P-Patch gardens. DON is requested to conduct a survey of current users to provide useful information on options under consideration and their potential effect on the garden use and general program use. The use of a Racial Equity Toolkit should be conducted to assist and guide this analysis.
4. **Public Outreach/Engagement Plan and Process:** DON is requested to work closely with internal and external partners in developing a menu of recommended best practices for this program. The report should also include examination of comparable programs, learning from experiences of other cities for effective administration and operations.

The Council requests DON to provide the Council with a report with findings and recommendations by July 1, 2018.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Affordable Housing, Neighborhoods and Finance Committee

**Date Due to Council:** July 1, 2018