

2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
213	1	B	1

Budget Action Title: Creation of Georgetown Public Safety Task Force

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: Harrell, Bruce

Councilmembers: González; Harris-Talley; O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Amy Tsai

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

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The Council requests that the Executive convene a Public Safety Task Force of Georgetown 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 Police 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 Georgetown neighborhood, which will also inform the City’s engagement with all other neighborhoods.

By January 31, 2018, a list of potential Public Safety Task Force participants should be identified by the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, and New Americans Committee and subsequently be provided to the Executive for consideration. The participants could include, for example, youth and adult residents of Georgetown, community-based organizations serving the Georgetown neighborhood or with expertise in the quality of life and public safety issues facing Georgetown residents, the Seattle Police Department, the Department of Neighborhoods, and representatives from the Council and Mayor’s Office.

By June 1, 2018, 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 for public safety services associated with Georgetown’s unique geographic characteristics, including distance from the Southeast Precinct and its impacts on police visibility, proactive policing, and 911 service responsiveness;
 - b. Strategies to increase police visibility and positive engagement with the neighborhood and community;
 - c. Strategies to engage youth in this neighborhood population; and
 - d. Strategies for applying data-driven approaches to improving public safety that is culturally and linguistically responsive to Georgetown residents.
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:

Georgetown is a neighborhood geographically bounded on the north by the mainlines of the BNSF Railway and Union Pacific Railroad, beyond which is the Industrial District; on the west by the Duwamish River, across which is South Park; on the east by Interstate 5, beyond which is Beacon Hill; and on the south by Boeing Field.

The close proximity to the industrial district is a feature that defines some of the community issues and challenges facing Georgetown. An EPA-funded study in 2013 has shown that residents in Georgetown and the 98108 ZIP code are more susceptible to the negative environmental effects caused by the proximity to the industrial district.

Georgetown has about 1,280 residents. The neighborhood includes 16 percent Latinos; 11 percent Asian-Pacific Islanders; and 65 percent White/Caucasian. In comparison, the racial makeup of Seattle is 6 percent Latino, 9.3 percent Asian-Pacific Islander, and 67 percent Caucasian.

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

Date Due to Council: June 1, 2018

