

2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
284	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Supporting reentry navigators and support for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals in indigenous communities

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: Herbold, Lisa

Councilmembers:

Staff Analyst: Asha Venkataraman

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 Executive identify the appropriate departments to work together to report to the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development & Arts committee, or the successor committee overseeing civil rights, and the Council Central Staff Director by May 1, 2018, regarding how to support currently and formerly incarcerated individuals (1) with reentry navigators and (2) from indigenous communities.

Reentry Navigators

Individuals returning from incarceration and living with criminal history face significant barriers to accessing housing, employment, education, healthcare, and reconnecting to their communities. The earlier that incarcerated individuals can start planning their reentry back into their community, the more successful they can be in regaining stability. The presence of "Reentry Navigators," individuals providing assistance in navigating multiple complex, interrelated systems to individuals both currently incarcerated and preparing for release and individuals already released from incarceration can be crucial to reentry success. In addition, navigation is most successful when the navigators share similar backgrounds with the individuals they are supporting and are system-engaged. Currently, organizations that often provide this type of navigation service are not owned by or do not employ formerly incarcerated individuals.

The Executive's report should:

- Of the organizations or government programs providing reentry services in any jail or prison where currently or formerly incarcerated individuals are coming to King County or Seattle upon release,

including services provided at Snohomish County jail, identify those that are owned by or employ formerly incarcerated individuals to provide reentry navigation services;

- Provide an analysis of how many reentry navigators would be necessary to serve all the currently or formerly incarcerated individuals who are coming to King County or Seattle upon release;
- Provide the total cost and cost per navigator of providing services to all the currently or formerly incarcerated individuals who are coming to King County or Seattle upon release.

Indigenous Communities

The Native American population in prisons and jails is growing increasingly disproportionate to their presence in the general population. Native Americans are incarcerated at a rate 38 percent higher than the national average rate of incarceration. In Seattle, Native Americans/Alaska Natives are seven times more likely to experience homelessness, more than any other racial group. In many conversations regarding race and the criminal justice, Native Americans are often left out. Targeted strategies to address the disproportionality are needed.

The Executive's report should include the items listed below, with the involvement of persons with lived experience of incarceration and who are part of the Native American community:

- Develop strategies to ensure that that City investments in reentry programs will be culturally appropriate and effective for the Native American populations;
- Identify organizations or government programs that are rooted in the Native American community that are providing or qualified to provide reentry services to the Native American population; and
- What percentage of the City's future investment in reentry programs should be targeted towards organizations rooted in the Native American community to ensure Native Americans who are currently or formerly incarcerated and coming to King County or Seattle upon release are adequately supported in reentry.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development and Arts Committee

Date Due to Council: May 1, 2018