

2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
402	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Report by CBO on management of jail contracts

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 the City Budget Office (CBO) explore how the City's contracts with King County and Snohomish County to provide jail services for Seattle Municipal Court (SMC) defendants facing misdemeanor charges can be managed by (1) those with lived experience of incarceration and/or with experience serving vulnerable populations; or (2) a department with experience overseeing contracts serving vulnerable populations.

Management of the jail contract by CBO, an office whose responsibilities primarily center around fiscal policy, financial planning, and budget-related functions, can give the appearance that the City is prioritizing financial efficiencies over ensuring that individuals that the City incarcerates are given sufficient support. Jails and prisons house vulnerable populations: In Washington State, of those individuals booked into jail, 58 percent have mental health needs and 61 percent have substance abuse needs. At SMC, of those booked into jail, 90 percent are considered indigent, and an estimated 50 percent are homeless. In addition, there are significant differences between the Snohomish County Jail and the King County Jail that can have an impact on successful reentry.

The report should analyze how other departments or groups could manage these contracts, considering the following:

- What is the scope of services the contracts currently fund?
- Are there qualitative outcomes associated with the contracts? If so, who is qualified to evaluate that these outcomes are being met?
- Are the contracts subject to results based accountability measures?
- How has the City used these contracts to ensure humane treatment of incarcerated individuals and that basic human needs are met?
- What characteristics of a department or group does CBO deem essential to be able to manage jail contracts?
- What are the current costs associated with contract administration?

The report should also identify any contracts that the City holds, or has held, which are managed by a body other than an office or department (such as a commission), the reason for the decision that a non-departmental entity should hold the contract, and the scope and outcomes of those contracts.

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

Date Due to Council: May 1, 2018