

May 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Public Safety and Human Services Committee
From: Asha Venkataraman, Analyst
Subject: CB 120560: HSD proviso lift

On May 9, 2023, the Public Health and Human Services Committee will discuss and possibly vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 120560](#), which would lift a proviso on funds in the 2023 Adopted Budget related to therapeutic services for women who have experienced sexual exploitation. This memo provides background, describes CB 120560, and outlines next steps.

Background

The 2023 Adopted Budget includes [CBA-HSD-021-A-002](#), sponsored by Councilmember Juarez, which appropriated \$200,000 of one-time funding to the Human Services Department (HSD) and imposed a proviso. The proviso: (1) restricts expenditure of the funds to therapeutic services including behavioral health, advocacy, and medical wrap-around services for women who have experienced sexual exploitation on Aurora Avenue N, and specifically identified the “Safe, Healthy, Empowered” (S.H.E.) clinic as a recipient; and (2) requires a future ordinance to lift the proviso and authorize spending. The Council anticipated that a proviso lift ordinance would not be considered until HSD announced to whom it was awarding funds in response to its 2022 request for proposals (RFP) for gender-based violence survivor services. HSD announced its awards in December 2022.

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This legislation would lift the proviso placed on the \$200,000 and allow HSD to award the funds to the S.H.E. Clinic. The S.H.E. Clinic is a program partnership between Aurora Commons and Harborview Medical Center. It opened in 2018 to provide healthcare services to survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, domestic violence, and sexual assault in a context that recognizes that the services needed are caused by homelessness, poverty, drug dependence, and violent victimization, but that these same factors can serve as barriers to access.

Next Steps

If the committee votes in favor of passing this legislation, CB 120560 will be in front of the Council for a vote on May 16, 2023.

cc: Esther Handy, Director
Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director
Greg Doss, Lead Analyst