

**SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

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**1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to homeless services; authorizing the Mayor to execute an interlocal agreement for the joint establishment of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority with King County and such additional parties as are eligible pursuant to terms of the interlocal agreement; approving the formation of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority by King County; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**Summary and background of the Legislation:** This legislation authorizes the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with King County to establish the King County Regional Homelessness Authority and approves the formation of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority by King County.

**2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**      \_\_\_ Yes X No

**3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?**      \_\_\_ Yes X No

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**

Anticipated one-time stand-up costs to the Human Services Department will be included in the 2020 Proposed Budget.

**Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**

The purpose of creating the Regional Authority is to disrupt the current fractured response to homelessness across the county in a way that consolidates accountability and centers work on equity and customers. If the legislation is not implemented the status quo will continue. The City and County will have missed the opportunity to set a national precedence for interjurisdictional collaboration, for a different way to center equity and customer voice in the homelessness response, and for the opportunity to build a system-level response to homelessness across the region.

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

The Human Services Department (HSD).

**b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No.

**c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**

No.

**d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No.

**e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No.

**f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**

Homelessness is often a symptom of structural and institutional racism. Homelessness occurs as a result of a variety of factors, principle among them the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow laws and legislated redlining, all of which have collectively resulted in, among other things, a disparity in wealth by race and ethnicity that, by some accounts, places wealth accumulation of African American households over 200 hundred years behind White households. The result is a phenomenon referred to as network impoverishment, or the financial impoverishment of one's support network to such a degree that they cannot provide support and assistance in times of crisis. In other words, through systematic impoverishment of communities of color, institutionalized racism has reduced the ability of these communities to backstop people in times of crisis, resulting a higher likelihood that people of color will experience homelessness. In King County, nearly two-thirds of people experiencing homelessness are people and families of color. African Americans are five times more likely to experience homelessness than their white counterparts in King County and American Indian and Alaska Native individuals are seven times more likely to experience homelessness.

One of the primary goals of Regional Governance is to build a system that places equity and customer voice at the center. To do that, customers and equity advocates have been closely involved in the design of the new Regional Authority structure, with particular focus on the Governing Board. Specifically, persons with lived experience and organizations representing their perspective expressly identified the need for the Governing Board to not merely consider customer voice, but more importantly include persons with or representing Lived Experience in all levels of governance – the Steering Committee and the Governing Board.

To ensure equity is at the center of the Regional Authority's work, the Authority will proactively seek to eliminate disproportionalities in the population experiencing

homelessness and disparities in outcomes for people experiencing homelessness by directly addressing structural racism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny and other sources of inequities. To this end, the Authority will establish and operate under an equity-based decision-making framework that shall guide its policy, business processes, and funding activities. This equity-based decision-making framework will establish a prioritization of customers of the service system and people with lived experience of homelessness as decision-makers in both system operations and policy development; a process for driving program and policy proposals based on customer feedback; a process for examining all policy, business process, and funding decisions with an explicit equity and racial justice analysis; a set of strategies to advance equity and racial justice. It will provide for the mitigation of unintended negative consequences; processes to ensure policy and program direction adapts to customer feedback and in response to negative impacts on communities of color; and establish processes to measure, evaluate, and respond to the impact of its decision-making on its goals of advancing equity.

Keeping the customer at the center of the Regional Authority's work requires intentional design to ensure that customer experience is at the heart of program design and customer voice is not merely valued but reflected in every aspect of the Authority's work. The Governing Board will ensure the creation of an Office of the Ombuds with the goals of establishing an accountability structure for customers and employees of the Authority and its homeless service system; and promoting customer confidence in the system and the Authority's ability to quickly and appropriately meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Commitment to customers and employees necessitates attention to accessibility. Within six months of formation, the Authority will prepare an initial work plan that, among other things, will describe an organizational structure, a plan for initial implementation of contracted services and a description of major goals and activities that the Regional Authority will undertake until approval of its first Five-Year Plan. This first implementation plan will include ways in which it will address accessibility for employees and customers, including a plan to ensure that language needs of customers, staff and the general public are met.

**g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).**

The legislation creates a new Regional Authority that will be accountable for the implementation of policies and programs supporting the long-term goal significantly reducing incidences of homelessness across the county. Within the first 18 months of operations, the Authority will develop a Five-Year Plan, which will be informed by a Regional Action Plan being separately prepared. The Five-Year Plan will include specific, measurable actions, including sub-regional planning. It will issue contracts with service providers that contain performance evaluation criteria, and develop consistent standards for the comprehensive data collection, monitoring and evaluation of systems

and program performance. The Authority will support continuous improvement of key system interventions (such as emergency services and homeless housing) and evaluate community impact, including community engagement, customer engagement, and continuum of care compliance and support of an Office of the Ombuds.

**List attachments/exhibits below:**

Summary Attachment A – Charter of King County Regional Homelessness Authority