

2020 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
CJ	21	A	1

Budget Action Title: Request that Executive departments report on reentry recommendations regarding increasing economic opportunities

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: Lorena González

Council Members:

Staff Analyst: Carlos Lugo

Date		Total	LH	BH	KS	AP	DJ	MO	SB	TM	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests reports from the Executive addressing recommendations made by the Seattle Reentry Workgroup on increasing economic opportunity for those living with criminal histories. Specifically, this SLI requests that:

1. The Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) work with formally incarcerated community members to develop a plan that supports small businesses owned by those with criminal histories. This support could include identifying and facilitating connections with business consultants, technical assistance to secure financing and navigating regulations, and grants for seed money to establish new businesses.
2. The Seattle Department of Human Resources (SDHR), Seattle Information Technology (SIT), and OED develop recommendations to increase hiring opportunities for those with criminal histories who have completed technological training from OED's TechHire partners.
3. OED and Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) prepare a report on how the City can increase the number of Requests for Proposals (RFP), Requests for Qualifications (RFQ), and public works projects awarded to businesses owned or led by formally incarcerated individuals.
4. SDHR and OED's Workforce Equity Team develop a report on how the City can increase hiring opportunities for formally incarcerated individuals.

The Executive is requested to submit the reports to the Council, the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities and New Americans Committee (or successor committee) and the Director of Council Central Staff by July 1, 2020.

Background

In December 2015, the City Council established a Prisoner and Community Corrections Re-entry

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Workgroup (sometimes referred to as the Seattle Reentry Workgroup) to coordinate and strengthen the City's efforts to assist the reentry process for people returning from incarceration (Resolution 31637). The Seattle Reentry Workgroup included representatives from community organizations, individuals living with criminal histories, as well as King County departmental staff (Public Defense and Community & Human Services) and City of Seattle staff (Seattle Municipal Court, City Council, Executive departments, and the City Attorney's Office).

As part of its mandate, the Seattle Reentry Workgroup was tasked with developing a set of policies, ordinances, strategies, or programs that the City can implement to facilitate reentry and remove unnecessary barriers to employment, housing, and other benefits. The Seattle Reentry Workgroup released its final report in October 2018. It contained a series of recommendations, including several related to increasing economic opportunity for individuals with criminal histories.

Responsible Council Committee(s):

Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans & Education

Date Due to Council:

July 1, 2020