



King County

Budget and Fiscal Management Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	4	Name:	Mark Melroy
Briefing No.:	2011-B0140	Date:	August 31, 2011

SUBJECT:

Today’s briefing concerns the \$1.5M Criminal Justice Reserve that was created by the Council’s Budget Leadership Team in its 2011 Budget Ordinance. Separately elected officials from the County’s criminal justice agencies are in attendance to discuss emergent criminal justice needs and requests for funding.

BACKGROUND:

It is well known that several economic factors forced significant reductions to King County’s 2011 budget. These reductions occurred most dramatically to agencies dependent upon the County’s constrained general fund including those serving the criminal justice system. During its consideration of the 2011 budget, the Council received many reports about the potential impacts of these reductions on our community. There were implications to nearly every function of the County’s criminal justice services. Since funding was simply not available to address all of the identified needs and potential impacts, the Budget Leadership Team created a one-time \$1.5M reserve in its budget. This reserve was meant to allow the County to quickly address the most urgent criminal justice needs as they arose during the year.

Budget Ordinance 16984, as passed by the King County Council on November 15, 2010, included the following description of this action:

- o *“The council has great concern about the criminal justice agency reductions that were necessary to balance the 2011 budget. Throughout 2010, the council heard about many potential and troubling impacts that could result from these reductions. In order to allow the county to be in the best position to quickly respond to the most pressing and emergent criminal justice and public safety needs in 2011, the council has set-aside a \$1.5M reserve in this budget.”*

In June of this year, the Executive transmitted an omnibus supplemental budget request (2011-0285) that included one-time investments in technology projects that would have associated out-year savings. Included in this request was use of the \$1.5M CJ reserve to support the Prosecutor’s Management Information System(PROMIS) project. The Council agreed with the priority nature of the PROMIS project by allowing funding support to move

forward, however, the Council stipulated that the CJ reserve be retained to provide for services more unforeseen in nature.

Gang Activity in South King County

On July 23rd of this year “rival gang members opened fire at a car show in Kent, wounding 12 people, said Kent Police Chief Ken Thomas. Later that night, a 13th person was injured in what Kent police have determined was a retaliatory shooting at an East Hill apartment complex” (Seattle Times, August 23, 2011).

Approximately one month before this shooting occurred, the County lost grant funding that supported a program run by the Prosecuting Attorney that helps prosecute gang members and coordinate with local law enforcement agencies referred to as the ‘South County Gang Initiative’. These events prompted the Prosecuting Attorney to request funding support for from the criminal justice reserve in order to help address the growing gang situation.

The Council’s Law, Justice, Health and Human Services Committee (LJHHS), heard about this growing problem in detail at their meeting on August 23rd. Councilmembers heard about the work of the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and local law enforcement agencies - including the King County Sheriff’s Office - to combat this problem.

Councilmembers voiced concern during the LJHHS meeting that the approach to addressing this problem should not be purely reactive in nature. Interest was expressed for programs that could help to prevent dangerous situations from occurring.

Budget Action

Following the August 23rd LJHHS Committee briefing, Budget Chair Julia Patterson convened a meeting with the Executive and the County’s separately elected officials who represent the criminal justice agencies. Councilmember Patterson requested that the group compile a prioritized list of services and functions that would best serve to address the emerging gang problem.

During the meeting held on August 25th, the Executive and elected leaders of the criminal justice system presented a list of efforts targeted to addressing the South County gang problem. Budget Chair Patterson collaborated with these leaders and worked within available resources to assemble a package of programs and actions that could be quickly implemented. In a letter to the Council on August 30th, the Executive made an official request that these items be added to the Omnibus Appropriation Legislation that is currently under consideration by the Council. This action greatly helps expedite these efforts by alleviating the need to process ‘stand alone’ budget appropriation legislation.

As a result of this close collaboration, quick decisions followed and the programs identified below have been included in the second omnibus legislation package that will be before the committee at today’s meeting:

King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO)

- Restore the Storefront Deputy in White Center \$190,000
This request would restore a fully equipped, full time deputy through the end of 2012 in the White Center storefront to work directly with the community, KCSO gang unit, and regional gang task forces. This liaison position is critical to providing the interface between community business owners, citizens, social services, and the gang intervention and suppression teams already working Seattle and King County. The 2011 portion is \$42,000.
- Gang Unit Equipment \$30,000
This request will replenish depleted hardware for the existing gang unit and provide additional equipment so that the gang unit can continue to work collaboratively in the law enforcement community on gang intervention across King County. The specific equipment requested includes: ballistic vests with plate carriers to hold ballistic plates; uniform jumpsuits; binoculars; video cameras and related accessories; digital cameras; GPS tracking devices; large High-Resolution computer monitor; software license for use by a detective with special training in the enhancement of video evidence; pole cameras in weatherproof enclosures; and tactical raid supplies.
- ESL Latino Community Education/Outreach \$15,000
To further the Sheriff's ongoing ESL communities' gang prevention efforts (which has been funded for three years via federal appropriations), this request will support outreach and education events in east, south, and west King County specifically focusing on in language outreach to young Latino mothers. This is a partnership with Seafair, incorporating Miss Seafair 2011 – 2012, Veronica Quintero, who also represented the Hispanic/Latino community as Miss Hispanic Seafair. Ms. Quintero is in her junior year at University of Washington where she is double majoring in Communications and Spanish. She will join Sheriff Sue Rahr and known Latino media personality Jaime Mendez (La Voz/EI Rey-KKMO) in specifically talking to young Latino mothers and family members on the issue of gang prevention and keeping their young children safe from gang recruitment and activity. Funding will pay for community and event coordination, translated materials, outreach, and Spanish language promotional radio and television spots and campaign through 2011.

King County Prosecuting Attorney (PAO)

- For the past two years, the PAO has received a federal grant that has funded three full time DPAs, who are assigned to work closely with police to improve the investigation, case development, and prosecution of gang violence-related crimes. That grant ended on June 30, 2011. Because the PAO believes that this important work is addressing some of the most violent and concerning criminal conduct throughout our community, the PAO has pledged to continue these efforts until the end of 2011, however, the PAO cannot continue this work without additional funding and resources. This request is for continuation of those 3 DPAs and 1 paralegal. The annualized amounts would be \$340,000 in 2012. The 2011 portion of the request is \$114,000.

Department of Community & Human Services (DCHS):

- Back to School and Employment Training \$230,000. This program would program training to moderate and high risk youth offenders in South King County. This funding is sufficient to serve 40-80 youth, and will fund the County staff and stipends necessary for the program. The 2011 portion of this request is \$44,200.
- Maintaining Education/Employment Training \$115,000. This program will serve 30-40 high-risk Latino youth involved with the criminal justice system. This request will fund county staff and stipends necessary for the program. The 2011 portion of this request is \$22,500
- Nurse Family Partnership \$312,500. This is an evidence-based intensive home visiting program for first time, low income mothers. Each nurse can handle a caseload of 25 families. The 2011 portion of these costs is \$62,500.

Program	2011	2012	Total
PAO Anti-Gang Unit	\$ 114,000	\$ 342,000	\$ 456,000
Equipment: Sheriff's Gang Unit	\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000
Storefront Deputy	\$ 41,663	\$ 137,728	\$ 179,391
Back-to-School/Employment Program (2 Case Mgrs)	\$ 44,167	\$ 265,000	\$ 309,167
Education/Employment Training - Avanza	\$ 22,500	\$ 115,000	\$ 137,500
Sheriff's Latino Education Outreach Program	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000
Nurse Family Partnership Program (2 Nurses)	\$ 62,502	\$ 250,000	\$ 312,502
Total	\$ 329,832	\$ 1,109,728	\$ 1,439,560

CONCLUSION:

The elected leaders of the criminal justice agencies responsible for delivering these services, along with the Executive's Director of Policy, Strategy and Budget are here today to discuss these items and their efforts to combat the challenging gang problems.

As noted previously, these programs have been added to the budget omnibus legislation (proposed ordinance 2011-0340) that is before the committee for consideration at today's meeting.

INVITED:

- Dan Satterberg, King County Prosecuting Attorney
- Richard McDermott, Superior Court Presiding Judge
- Sue Rahr, King County Sheriff
- Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Executive Letter, dated August 30, 2011



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

August 30, 2011

The Honorable Larry Gossett
The Honorable Julia Patterson
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Gossett and Councilmember Patterson:

I am writing to request that the County Council amend the second omnibus supplemental ordinance that is currently before your Budget and Fiscal Management Committee to address increasing gang violence in south King County. Several recent incidents have indicated the need for more prevention, intervention, and law enforcement actions.

The Council wisely set aside a Criminal Justice Reserve as part of the 2011 Adopted Budget, which was intended to provide funds to deal with emerging issues. It has been my pleasure to work with County Councilmembers, separately-elected officials, and others in the criminal justice and human services areas to develop a proposal to help address the problem of gangs in south King County. This proposal includes seven components:

1. Restore the storefront deputy in White Center (\$179,391). This position in the Sheriff's Office was cut in 2011 due to the County's financial challenges. Restoring the position will allow proactive law enforcement in the White Center neighborhood.
2. Expand the Prosecutor's anti-gang unit (\$456,000). The Prosecutor's Office recently lost federal funds that were focused on prosecuting gang members. The requested funds would support a team of three deputy prosecutors and a paralegal who would focus solely on gang-related cases.
3. Restore two of five case managers for the Back to School and Employment Training Program (\$309,167). This program focuses on providing education and employment training for youthful offenders in South King County. Grant funding for five case managers expired earlier in the year.

The Honorable Larry Gossett
The Honorable Julia Patterson
August 30, 2011
Page 2


4. Continue funding for the Avanza project, which is an education and employment training program for Latino youth at risk of dropping out of school or juvenile justice involvement (\$137,500). This program has been successful in engaging truant youth back into school and providing employment opportunities. Without the proposed funding, the program will shut down this fall when grant funds expire.
5. Add two nurses to the Nurse Family Partnership Program (\$312,502). This very successful Public Health program has nurses work with high-risk mothers to improve health outcomes and connect women with services. The program has demonstrated that individuals receiving services—both parents and children—have a much lower involvement in the criminal justice system. There are many women in south King County who are eligible for services but don't receive them. This proposal would add nurses focused on the White Center, Burien, and Tukwila areas.
6. Provide equipment for the Sheriff's gang unit (\$30,000), including ballistic vests, binoculars, video equipment, training and software for video enhancement, and supplies used in serving search warrants and arrest warrants.
7. Fund continued support for the Sheriff's Latino education outreach program (\$15,000), which works with young Latino mothers and other family members on the issues of keeping their young children safe from gang recruitment and activity.

These programs were chosen based on their connection to addressing gang issues and because they can be implemented quickly. If funded, I expect all of these programs can start no later than October 2011.

The total requested funding is \$1,439,560. Funds would cover costs in both 2011 and 2012. My staff is working with your staff to identify the 2011 amounts to be added to the second omnibus supplemental. I commit to including the 2012 costs in the Proposed Budget I will send to you on September 26.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to continue working with you to address the challenges raised by gang activity.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

The Honorable Larry Gossett
The Honorable Julia Patterson
August 30, 2011
Page 3

cc: Metropolitan King County Councilmembers
The Honorable Dan Satterberg, King County Prosecutor
The Honorable Sue Rahr, King County Sheriff
The Honorable Richard McDermott, Presiding Judge, King County Superior Court
The Honorable Barbara Linde, Presiding Judge, King County District Court
Jackie MacLean, Director, King County Department of Community and Human
Services
Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer, Public Health – Seattle & King
County