



KING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
516 Third Avenue, W-116
Seattle, WA 98104

John Urquhart
Sheriff

July 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

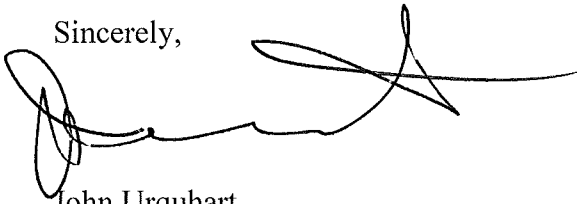
I am writing to you today to express my support for MIDD funding of a mental health professional outreach coordinator or "navigator" position to be attached to the RADAR (Response Awareness, De-escalation, and Referral) pilot program currently underway in the City of Shoreline.

As you are aware, the City of Shoreline contracts for police services with the King County Sheriff's Office. Recently the city applied for a Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) Grant from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), and was one of seven cities nationwide to receive the award. With this grant, the DOJ has tasked the City of Shoreline and by extension the Sheriff's Office with developing an initiative that will increase safety and enhance the effectiveness of contacts between law enforcement and individuals with behavior health challenges. In addition, it is expected that the RADAR pilot effort will produce a program template that can be successfully replicated by other law enforcement agencies nationwide. This is clearly an opportunity for both the city and the county to be recognized on the national level as innovative leaders in the areas law enforcement and behavioral health. These federal funds cover the expected three year life span of the RADAR initiative in its pilot phase from January 2016 through December 2018.

As our research partners at George Mason University Center for Evidence Based Crime Policy and The Police Foundation have documented in their initial RADAR research, there is a distinct need by the Shoreline Police Department, and by extension the King County Sheriff's Office and law enforcement agencies throughout the region, for more knowledge about alternative dispositions for individuals with behavioral health challenges. There is also the need by law enforcement for greater integration with mental health professionals and service providers, including options to hand off behavioral health follow up responsibilities to appropriate professionals when a situation is no longer a law enforcement issue, and ensure that longer term treatment options are initiated to deal with underlying issues and reduce the "revolving door" of individuals whose issues recur over and over again; siphoning off scarce first responder resources.

I am extremely optimistic that adding the outreach coordinator position to the RADAR policy and training development team will provide the much needed system and resource awareness that the RADAR pilot program needs to successfully complete its mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Urquhart'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Urquhart
SHERIFF