



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**April 22, 2013**

**Ordinance 17557**

**Proposed No. 2013-0134.2**

**Sponsors Lambert**

1 AN ORDINANCE related to superior court and the  
2 department of judicial administration; allowing the use of  
3 county funds to provide incentive rewards with a financial  
4 value to participants in juvenile court programs and adult  
5 drug diversion court as superior court and department of  
6 judicial administration budgets permit; and adding new  
7 sections to K.C.C. chapter 2.69.

8 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

9 A. The juvenile court division of King County superior court administers  
10 juvenile justice in King County and serves families and youths through a  
11 wide array of juvenile court therapeutic programs, including juvenile drug  
12 court, family treatment court, aggression replacement therapy, multi-  
13 systemic therapy, functional family therapy, and family integrated  
14 transitions.

15 B. The department of judicial administration, in conjunction with other  
16 criminal justice system branches of government, administers the adult  
17 drug diversion court and related therapeutic programs, such as the Step Up  
18 program.

19 C. These specialized, therapeutic courts and associated programs, as  
20 established by King County government and King County courts, are a  
21 proven means to change behavior, reduce recidivism, and increase  
22 productivity among program participants, thus saving taxpayer dollars in  
23 the short and long term.

24 D. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse: Treatment for  
25 Criminal Justice Populations Research Guide (September, 2007), a  
26 balance of rewards and sanctions encourages pro-social behavior and  
27 treatment participation. The contingency management approaches,  
28 utilized in treatment courts and evidence-based juvenile justice programs,  
29 require the provision of tangible incentive rewards, such as coffee cards,  
30 movie passes, etc., and intangible incentive rewards such as praise and  
31 encouragement as rewards for constructive activities that are incompatible  
32 with crime and drug use, such as attending treatment, following program  
33 guidelines, attending school and obtaining employment. As is stated by a  
34 lead drug court researcher in the National Drug Court Institute Benchbook  
35 (February, 2011), "failing to reward accomplishments makes those  
36 accomplishments less likely to recur."

37 E. Taxpayers benefit significantly from cost benefits generated by  
38 therapeutic court and evidence-based juvenile court programs and  
39 incentive rewards are an integral component to success in the programs.  
40 Use of incentives and rewards in evidence-based programs is a best  
41 practice. Use of incentives and rewards contributes to successful program

42 participant outcomes and to the subsequent reduction in criminal  
43 recidivism and related cost savings to citizens.

44 F. The expenditure of county funds on incentive rewards to support  
45 juvenile court therapeutic programs and adult drug diversion court  
46 therapeutic programs serves a fundamental government purpose. In  
47 addition, incentive rewards are provided in consideration for successful  
48 achievement by program participants, and not with donative intent.

49 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

50 NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 2.69 a  
51 new section to read as follows:

52 The superior court is hereby authorized to use county funds to pay for incentive  
53 rewards for participants in juvenile court therapeutic programs. The purpose of the  
54 incentive rewards shall be to recognize the achievement of programmatic successes and  
55 to encourage further participation and successful outcomes. The financial value of  
56 individual incentive rewards may vary depending on the program and the circumstances  
57 which warrant the incentive. However, no single incentive reward shall exceed twenty-  
58 five dollars, unless approved in advance in writing by the superior court chief  
59 administrative officer.

60 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 2.69 a  
61 new section to read as follows:

62 The department of judicial administration is hereby authorized to use county  
63 funds to pay for incentive rewards for participants in adult drug diversion court and  
64 related therapeutic programs. The purpose of the incentive rewards shall be to recognize

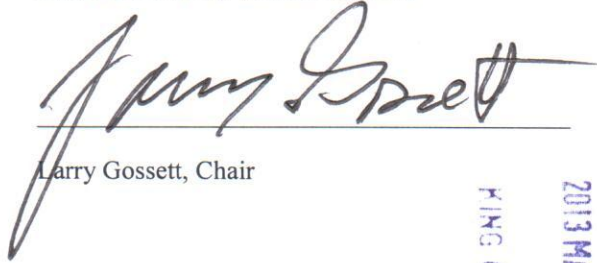
65 the achievement of programmatic successes and to encourage further participation and  
66 successful outcomes. The financial value of individual incentive rewards may vary  
67 depending on the program and the circumstances that warrant the incentive. However, a  
68 single incentive reward shall not exceed twenty-five dollars, unless approved in advance  
69 in writing by the department of judicial administration director.

70

Ordinance 17557 was introduced on 3/25/2013 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 4/22/2013, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson,  
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Dembowski  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Mr. Phillips

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



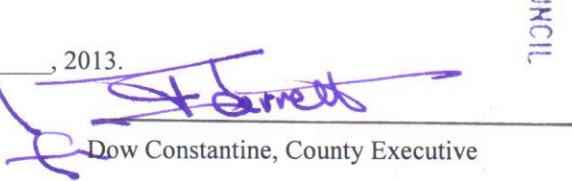
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 1 day of May, 2013.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

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CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: None