KING COUNTY



Signature Report

Motion 16361

Proposed No. 2023-0160.2 **Sponsors** Dembowski and Kohl-Welles 1 A MOTION requesting the executive to evaluate programs 2 to appropriately reduce the average daily population in 3 King County adult secure detention facilities and provide 4 funding recommendations. 5 WHEREAS, King County's policy, since adoption of the Adult Justice 6 Operational Master Plan in 2002, is that county secure detention facilities shall only be 7 used for public safety purposes, and 8 WHEREAS, as a result of that policy, for two decades King County has 9 developed alternatives to secure detention, including offering diversion programs, 10 providing treatment resources and providing community services to address root causes 11 of public safety concerns and reduce recidivism, and 12 WHEREAS, in recent years, King County has undertaken initiatives to further 13 explore alternatives to secure detention and continue shifting the criminal justice 14 paradigm from secure detention to addressing underlying social justice causes, such as 15 access to behavioral health services, housing, employment and other social services, and 16 WHEREAS, in the 2017-2018 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18409, the 17 council included Proviso P1, Section 19, requiring a report on options for providing work 18 education release and electronic home detention, and

WHEREAS, in 2017, recognizing the importance of maintaining viable	
alternatives to secure detention, the council created the special committee on alternative	es
to secure detention, and	
WHEREAS, in response to the council including Proviso P3 in the 2019-2020	
Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18835, Section 19, King County formed the	
pretrial reform working group including representatives from the department of public	
defense, the prosecuting attorney's office, the superior and districts courts, the department	ent
of adult and juvenile detention, the council, the department of judicial administration as	nd
community and nonprofit organizations working to reduce pretrial incarceration, and	
WHEREAS, in 2019, the pretrial reform working group developed a report	
containing analysis and recommendations for reducing incarceration rates of adult	
inmates at the county's adult secure detention facilities, and	
WHEREAS, in an effort to address the disproportionate impact that the bail	
system in King County has on low-income residents, the 2019-2020 Biennial Budget	
Ordinance included \$400,000 in funding for the department of community and human	
services to contract with a King County nonprofit organization that pays bail for indige	nt
individuals who would otherwise spend their pretrial time in jail, and	
WHEREAS, in response to Ordinance 18835, Section 62, Proviso P3, the	
executive transmitted the Community Bail Fund Pilot Project Report, which included the	he
finding that as a result of release plans and support services offered by contracted	
nonprofit organizations, "judges agreed to reduce total bail costs for these individuals	
from \$688,000 in total to \$51,000 " and included a recommendation to increase funding	σ

41	for organizations that provide supportive services for people who are released on bail,
42	including shelter, food and job training, and
43	WHEREAS, in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget Ordinance, King County included
44	funding for implementation of the community diversion program, intended to divert
45	eligible individuals facing their first low-level property or drug felony, or both, to a
46	community-based, culturally competent program in lieu of prosecution, and
47	WHEREAS, also in the 2021-2022 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 19210, Section
48	50, Proviso P4, the council required the executive to transmit a report providing
49	information on the department of adult and juvenile detention's community work program
50	and alternative ways to serve the needs of program participants, and
51	WHEREAS, in 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, King County made
52	additional efforts to further reduce the adult secure detention population by implementing
53	jail booking restrictions, expanding the electronic home monitoring program and
54	temporarily eliminating electronic home monitoring fees that disproportionately impacted
55	participation by people with low incomes, and
56	WHEREAS, these emergency efforts succeeded in reducing King County's secure
57	adult detention average daily population by over six hundred people between 2019 and
58	2020, and
59	WHEREAS, jail booking restrictions remain in place, and the elimination of
60	electronic home monitoring fees was made permanent in 2022 by Ordinance 19536, and
61	WHEREAS, the county is experiencing unprecedented staff vacancies at the
62	county's adult detention facilities with over one hundred corrections officer vacancies,

63	resulting in reduced access to services and programing for inmates and mandatory
64	overtime for staff, and
65	WHEREAS, efforts to address King County's jail capacity issues have included
66	hiring and retention incentives for detention staff and a proposal to contract for jail
67	services with South Correctional Entity through December 2024, and
68	WHEREAS, during public testimony for the proposal to contract for jail services
69	with South Correctional Entity community members have advocated for additional
70	funding for alternatives to incarceration, and
71	WHEREAS, the council has expressed a priority interest in further reducing the
72	average daily population at the county's adult detention facilities, if appropriate for
73	maintaining public safety, through exploring potential options, such as increased support
74	services for people in the criminal justice system, electronic home monitoring program
75	expansion, diversion program expansion, bail assistance programs and partnerships with
76	community organizations;
77	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
78	A. The executive is requested to evaluate programs to reduce King County's
79	secure adult detention daily population, if appropriate for ensuring public safety. The
80	evaluation should include communication with King County criminal justice partners,
81	which may include superior court, the prosecuting attorney's office, the department of
82	public defense or community service providers. The evaluation should consider program
83	options based on their cost and potential to expediently and effectively reduce King
84	County's adult secure detention population while ensuring public safety. The evaluation

85	should draw from recommendations from related county work, including but not limited
86	to:
87	1. The Pretrial Reform Proviso Workgroup Report produced in response to
88	Ordinance 18835, Section 19, Proviso P3;
89	2. The Community Bail Fund Pilot Project Report produced in response to
90	Ordinance 18835, Section 62, Proviso P3;
91	3. The Community Work Program Proviso Response, the receipt of which was
92	acknowledged by Motion 16087;
93	4. The Work Education Release and Electronic Home Detention Options for
94	King County Proviso Response approved by Motion 14972;
95	5. Efforts by the executive and the department of adult and juvenile detention to
96	explore options for addressing jail capacity issues; and
97	6. Lessons learned during efforts to establish the community diversion program.
98	B. The executive should provide to the council recommendations about priorities
99	for county investment based on the evaluation requested in section A of this ordinance.
100	The executive should provide the recommendations by electronically transmitting a letter
101	or a supplemental budget ordinance to the clerk of the council no later than September
102	30, 2023. The clerk shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all

Motion 16361

- 103 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the law, justice, health
- and human services committee, or its successor.

Motion 16361 was introduced on 4/4/2023 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/16/2023, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Balducci, Dembowski, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove and Zahilay

No: 2 - Dunn and von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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