

Proviso Report:
King County Sheriff's Office
Gang Violence Reduction, Prevention and Participation

Response to Budget Proviso in the King County Ordinance 18835

Section 21, P6, Pages 20 and 21

Prepared Chief Troy Olmsted, Criminal Investigations Division

October 10, 2019

This report responds to the following proviso in King County's 2019-20 Budget Ordinance 18835, Section 21, P6, pages 20 and 21:

P6 PROVIDED FURTHER THAT:

Of this appropriation, \$100,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the sheriff transmits a report on the community engagement efforts employed by the sheriff to prevent and reduce gang participation and violence and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the report and reference the subject matter, the proviso's ordinance, ordinance section and proviso number in both the title and body of the motion, and a motion acknowledging receipt of the report is passed by the council.

The report shall include, but not be limited to:

A. A list of organizations, including, but not limited to, law enforcement agencies, nonprofits, neighborhood and community groups, youth organizations, schools and businesses that the sheriff has partnered with, or has identified as potential partners, to advance the objectives of preventing and reducing gang participation and violence; and

B. A description of the methods and manner through which the sheriff is partnering with other law enforcement agencies and public entities to increase coordination and collaboration to advance the objectives of preventing and reducing gang participation and violence.

The sheriff should file the report and a motion required by this proviso by September 1, 2019, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the law and justice committee, or its successor.

When Sheriff Mitzi G. Johanknecht requested funding for a full-time detective sergeant and a detective, she envisioned they would be founding members of a larger, regional effort to reduce gang activity and violence throughout King County. The Sheriff's Office thanks the Council for their support in funding these positions. This will allow the King County Sheriff's Office to become a regional leader in reducing and preventing the proliferation of gang violence and gang membership, particularly among our young people.

The addition of these positions also supplements the newly created Family and Youth Services section (FYS) of the Criminal Investigations Division. The primary objective is to reduce violent crime through outreach, education, intervention and enforcement. Reducing violence and criminal activity associated with gangs is a primary focus of the unit. It is important to acknowledge violent crimes may not be the direct result of gang activity; however, the perpetrators, and/or the activity surrounding the acts, are often interwoven with gang members or gang activities. The stated goals and objectives for the unit are:

- 1) Community Problem Solving - build and maintain relationships with key community members in order to solve problems associated with gang or group violence; creatively use resources, tactics and strategies to solve problems before violence erupts; utilize prevention, intervention and referral resources to provide non-gang options for high risk community members.

- 2) Education - educate community members and law enforcement representatives (internal and external), about trending gang activities, tactics and projections; prevention and intervention techniques/programs.
- 3) Investigation/Enforcement - lead and/or participate in criminal investigations associated with gang or group violence; act as originating and full-time members of a task force which will include representatives from other local and federal agencies.

The significance of gangs and related activity have a substantial economic and emotional impact across all areas of the community. Families, schools, health care, elected officials, law enforcement and the judicial system must all take ownership for prevention efforts. Implementation of early prevention strategies to keep youth from joining gangs is a critical step in the effort to reduce the attraction and participation in gang activity.

Gang violence only scratches the surface of problems faced by at risk youth. Youth involved in gangs are more likely to engage in substance abuse and multiple high-risk behaviors that can lead to addiction, teen parenthood, education reduction, family problems, employment difficulties, and other social problems.

Our collaboration with other local law enforcement agencies, and our federal partners, in southeast King County, has led to the formation of the Violent Crimes Reduction Task Force. The total number of confirmed participants has yet to be finalized, but so far we have commitments from the Des Moines Police Department, Seattle Police Department, United States Marshall Service, Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms (ATF), and the State Department of Corrections. The task force is located in the southern region of King County.

The influence and outreach of criminal gang activity is not limited to one law enforcement jurisdiction, city or school district. Partnerships with other jurisdictions removes some of the often self-imposed jurisdictional barriers. In turn, partnerships and alliances currently formed in King County, and by our task force partners, becomes a force multiplier. Each public and private entity is strengthened by the larger group outreach. Working in a coordinated effort.

In order to be successful, comprehensive gang initiatives require community wide support and involvement. Planning and delivery of integrated prevention, outreach, support and services across public and private partnerships will need to be coordinated. Through Sheriff Johanknecht's vision for a regional approach, the King County Sheriff's Office is working to support the effort to reduce gang participation, activity, and violence through strategic partnerships and coordinated efforts.

Partnerships include:

- **LINC Program Management/Oversight:**
 - o **CCYJ (Center for Children and Youth Justice)** – Anica Steive, Lisa McCaul, & Chelsey Nill
- **Outreach Team:**
 - o **YMCA Alive & Free** – Marvin Marshall, Freddie Pie, Andy Pacificar, Reynaldo Sampson, Jose Villegas, Lina Wheeler, Ta'Vona Callender, Ali Lilley
 - o **Safe Futures** – Maria Toloza-Meza
 - o **REACH** – George Farrell, Bridget Scott
- **King County Juvenile Court/Resources (King County):**
 - o **Probation** – Michelle Mihail & Francisca Madera
 - o **Detention** – Rich Reed
 - o **EET (Employment and Education Training)** – Justin Cox
 - o **Youth Source (employment and education)** – Minda Michelle Mattox

- **State of Washington:**
 - o **Parole (JRA - Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration)** – Matt Marinovich
- **Education:**
 - o **Renton School Dist.** – Marsha Linn
 - o **Highline School Dist.** – Lisa Foote, Randy Body
- **Substance Use/Mental Health Providers:**
 - o **Navos** – Tim Primeaux
 - o **WAPI** – Kisela & Shundra King
 - o **Consejo** – Safia Ahmed & Marcos Sauri
- **Law Enforcement:**
 - o **King County Sheriff's Office** – Detectives from Precinct SET teams, Burien HVT, Burien PD, SeaTac PD, KC Metro, and others. **School Resource Officer's** – Isaac Arand, Gavin Anderson, Jason Klinger
 - o **US Marshall's** – John Westland
 - o **ATF** – Yvonne Rios, Joe Eshom
 - o **DOC** – John Conaty, Anne Hudson, Don Neyhart
 - o **Seattle PD**
 - o **King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office** – Karissa Taylor, Dan Carew
 - o **Des Moines Police Department** – Isaac Helgren, Doug Weable
 - o **Bellevue PD** – Dan Finan
- **Other:**
 - o **City of Burien Human Services Manager** – Colleen Brandt-Schluter