## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 7 | **Name:** | Clifton Curry |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2019-0480 | **Date:** | February 10, 2020 |

**SUBJECT**

A motion confirming Allen Nance as the Director of the Juvenile Division of the department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.

**BACKGROUND**

The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention has four divisions: two adult jail facility divisions—in Seattle at the King County Correctional Facility (KCCF) and in Kent at the Regional Justice Center (RJC); a community corrections division; an administration division; and, a juvenile division. The department’s Juvenile Division is responsible for the care and custody of youth who are detained in the Youth Services Center in Seattle (and, after it opens, at the Children and Families Justice Center). In 2019, the average daily population in detention was 43 youth. Youth are detained at the Youth Services Center for the following reasons: after an arrest for allegedly committing a criminal offense, on a warrant, remanded from court, to serve a sentence, or as part of an order sanctioning the youth for violating the terms of probation.

While detained, youth receive medical assessment to determine if there is a need for immediate medical or mental health intervention. Youth are also assessed to determine appropriate placement in detention and to identify special needs that may need to be addressed. Seattle Public Schools provide teachers and a regular curriculum, including special education.  The detention school operates the same hours and is on the same vacation schedule as the Seattle Public School District.  There is also a library on site that is staffed by librarians from the King County Library System.  Other programs available to youth in secure detention are regularly scheduled church services, Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings on site and an anger management program.

The Juvenile Division also provides alternatives to secure detention (ASD).  These programs are based on the philosophy of matching the level of restriction to a youth's level of risk to self and public safety.  Referrals to alternatives programs are made through a division-run detention screening process and from referrals from juvenile probation counselors and the courts.  The ASD program is comprised of Electronic Monitoring, Work Crew, and a Day and Evening Reporting Center.  Group home beds are also available as placement options. There are over 80 youth participating in alternatives programs. Staff for the juvenile division play an integral role in the implementation of the council’s adopted juvenile justice reforms from the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan (JJOMP).[[1]](#footnote-1)

***Selecting a Juvenile Division Director.*** The county’s charter and code establish certain requirements for the selection and confirmation of department heads. For example, the executive selects the director of the Department of the Adult and Juvenile Detention, who must also be confirmed by the council. Department directors generally select their subordinate staff without council review or the need for confirmation. However, two of the DAJD’s division directors are subject to council review (the juvenile and community corrections divisions). In 1999, the council adopted, and the executive signed, Ordinance 13668. This ordinance eliminated the county’s Department of Youth Services. Prior to 1999, the Department of Youth Services had been responsible for both detention and probation services for the county’s juvenile offenders. As the county reviewed its juvenile programs—ultimately adopting the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan—the county realized that it must change how services for youth were provided. The Superior Court assumed responsibility for court services and probation staff. The detention function was transferred to the then Department of Adult Detention. The adopted ordinance sought to ensure that the juvenile detention program supported the JJOMP initiatives and was also responsive to the Superior Court. As a consequence, the council adopted policy that establishes the specific role of the juvenile division, as distinct from the adult detention programs:

**K.C.C. 2.16.120** The principle function of the juvenile division is to operate the county’s juvenile detention facility in a safe, secure and humane manner as prescribed by state law and court rules. The juvenile division shall administer alternatives to secure detention as approved by the court, a school program, a health program and other related programs. The juvenile division shall be operated in a manner that will give reasonable access to the defense bar, juvenile probation counselors and social service providers and educators, consistent with appropriate security measures and public safety.

In addition, the council adopted unique policies guiding how the manager of the program would fit in the department’s organization and how the manager would be selected:

**K.C.C. 2.16.175** The manager of the youth detention facility shall be at least at the level of a division manager within the newly created department of juvenile and adult detention. Upon a vacancy, the executive shall replace the manager of the youth detention facility through a competitive search process that includes participation from the superior court;

Finally, the council adopted the requirement that juvenile detention program manager—unlike most similar positions—is subject to council review and confirmation:

**K.C.C. 2.16.110 Appointment and confirmation of exempt officials**.

A. The county executive shall appoint the county administrative officer and the director of each executive department, except the departments of assessment, public safety and judicial administration. The county executive shall also appoint the division director of the youth detention facility through a competitive search process that includes participation by the superior court judges.

D.1. All appointments by the county executive shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the county council except exempt personnel assigned to his or her personal staff.

The Executive reports that a competitive search was conducted, as required by code, in late 2019. The executive reports that the nationwide search included court representatives, staff from Public Health – Seattle and King County, and labor representatives. The search resulted in Mr. Allen Nance being selected.

**APPOINTEE INFORMATION**

This proposed motion would confirm the appointment of Mr. Allen Nance as the Juvenile Detention Division Director, which includes managing the County’s juvenile detention facility.

Mr. Nance most recently served as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for the City and County of San Francisco. In that position he was responsible for a 150 bed-juvenile facility and that employed 250 people who provide community supervision, detention operations, coordination of placement services, review and processing of all juvenile court referrals, and facilitation of court process. Mr. Nance worked for the Juvenile Probation Department for 14 years, and for the past six years was the Chief Probation Officer (for juveniles and adults). He has reported that his agency had expanded alternatives to detention and diversion, work he said led to a record low population in the city's juvenile justice system. Currently, there are 500 young people "active" in the city’s probation system, compared to around 2,000 a decade ago

Before holding that position, he served in a number of roles that included case manager for adults with chronic behavioral health issues, field probation officer, trainer for programs, administrator, probation and court services, and criminal justice advisor. Mr. Nance began his career with the Juvenile Probation Department of Cook County, Illinois, where he rose from line officer to Deputy Chief Probation Officer. Mr. Nance then became the Deputy Director of the Adult Services Division for DuPage County Probation in Illinois. Mr. Nance relocated to San Francisco in 2005, working initially as the Assistant Chief Probation Officer in the Juvenile Probation Department, before being appointed as the Acting Director for the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice for San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newson before returning to the probation department as the Chief Probation Officer. Mr. Nance has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

**ANALYSIS**

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointment. It appears to be consistent with King County Code requirements, including those that particularly pertain to the appointment of the division director of the youth detention facility.

**INVITED**

* Allen Nance, Director Designee, Juvenile Detention Division, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
* John Diaz, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2019-0480 with attachments
2. Executive Transmittal Letter

1. In June 2000 the council adopted Ordinance 13916, the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan (JJOMP). The council adopted the following as county policy: “It is the intent of the council that, with the approval of the Phase II Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan, it is the policy of King County to emphasize prevention, intervention, and alternatives to the use of secure detention for juvenile offenders. That the prevention of juvenile crime and, the intervention to ensure that juvenile offenders do not commit new crimes, is a much more effective and economical use of resources than building secure detention facilities.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)