



Legislation Text

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Clerk 03/26/2003

A MOTION approving the reports, Law, Safety and Justice Strategic Integration Plan and the LSJ Program Alternatives Strategy and Approach.

WHEREAS, the county is committed to protecting public safety and ensuring a just, fair, efficient, effective and functioning criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, services required by state law consist largely of those services related to the criminal justice system, which is law enforcement, courts, adult and juvenile detention, prosecution and indigent defense and some services related to public health, and

WHEREAS, the elements of the county criminal justice system are the responsibility of separately elected officials, including the executive, fifty-one superior court judges, twenty-six district court judges, the prosecuting attorney and the sheriff, and

WHEREAS, within those operations, the county functions as a regional service provider to municipal jurisdictions, particularly in the areas of detention, criminal prosecution and the courts, and

WHEREAS, recent events have proven that effective access to criminal information and criminal case management information improves the capabilities of law enforcement and public safety officials, and

WHEREAS, both the federal and state governments have identified that the ability for local governments to share information contributes to the success of broader homeland security efforts, and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of the 2003 current expense budget is devoted to the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, to balance a \$42 million deficit in the current expense budget over the next two years, the

county must therefore look for ways to reduce costs in the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, in the 2003 budget, the council identified \$6.1 million of savings in the department of adult and juvenile detention and strategically reinvested those savings in activities that will continue to reduce growth in the costs of the county's criminal justice system, including an investment of \$2 million in the law, safety and justice strategic integration program, and

WHEREAS, the council recognizes that improvements and efficiencies in the criminal justice system must be jointly developed by the elected officials responsible for the separate elements of the system, and

WHEREAS, diligent analysis has identified opportunities in which quantified cost savings may be realized through the improved management and sharing of criminal justice information among and between the various county agencies, and including other jurisdictions that interact with King County, and

WHEREAS, to realize both the operational benefits and public safety capabilities afforded by criminal justice information sharing, it is necessary for the county to establish a comprehensive strategy regarding the goals, objectives and approach for justice integration, and to establish a unified program to manage the county's strategy for achieving these objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

The report, Law, Safety and Justice Strategic Integration Plan, Attachment A to

this motion and the report, LSJ Integration Program Alternatives Strategy and Approach dated November 5, 2002, Attachment B to this motion, are hereby approved.