



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

April 26, 2016

Motion 14632

Proposed No. 2016-0198.2

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION requesting the executive to develop and  
2 submit for council review and acceptance a report on the  
3 status and options for sustainable continuation of the  
4 department of adult and juvenile detention dedicated  
5 veteran housing pilot and veterans-focused programming at  
6 the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center and to request a  
7 supplemental appropriation to support such pilot and  
8 programming.

9 WHEREAS, King County is home to an estimated one hundred fourteen thousand  
10 former members of the United States military, reserves and National Guard who have  
11 served in active duty. This population of veterans represents between five and six  
12 percent of the total county population, and

13 WHEREAS, research has shown significantly higher rates of posttraumatic stress  
14 disorder in veterans who have served in combat zones than in the general population.  
15 The national research suggests that thousands of King County veterans have experienced  
16 or are experiencing posttraumatic stress symptoms to some degree, and

17 WHEREAS, veterans coming into contact with the criminal justice system often  
18 have a number of unmet service needs across multiple domains, including mental health

19 issues, substance abuse, homelessness, poverty, unemployment and issues related to  
20 posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries, and

21 WHEREAS, by increasing veteran access to veterans' justice programs in  
22 incarceration facilities, unmet service needs and barriers to recovery can more effectively  
23 be addressed through connecting veterans to resources that help stabilize and support  
24 them and that aid these individuals in returning to their communities, and

25 WHEREAS, because incarcerated veterans face unique challenges, and research  
26 on the medical and psychiatric needs of veterans and persons with post-traumatic stress  
27 disorder or traumatic brain injuries is continually and rapidly evolving, staff serving  
28 veteran populations have significant ongoing training needs, and

29 WHEREAS, some inmates eligible for specialized veteran services may not  
30 receive them because of a lack of self-identification during the intake process, and

31 WHEREAS, in May 2014, in recognition of the unique needs of incarcerated  
32 veterans, the council passed Motion 14125, requiring the executive to develop and submit  
33 for council review and approval a report on improving programs and services for  
34 incarcerated veterans in department of adult and juvenile detention facilities, and

35 WHEREAS, in January 2015, the council passed Motion 14301, accepting the  
36 Improving Programs and Services for Incarcerated Veterans Report required under  
37 Motion 14125, and

38 WHEREAS, among the recommendations made in the Improving Programs and  
39 Services for Incarcerated Veterans Report, transmitted as Attachment A to Motion 14301,  
40 the motion workgroup recommended that the department of adult and juvenile detention

41 pilot a dedicated veteran housing unit and provide veterans-focused programming at the  
42 Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center, and

43 WHEREAS, among the recommendations made in the Improving Programs and  
44 Services for Incarcerated Veterans Report, transmitted as Attachment A to Motion 14301,  
45 the motion workgroup made recommendations aimed at improving identification of  
46 justice-involved and veterans at all King County jail facilities, and

47 WHEREAS, the Improving Programs and Services for Incarcerated Veterans  
48 Report also recommended ongoing training opportunities for jail and jail health staff on  
49 working with veteran-specific populations and understanding military culture and  
50 military trauma-informed care, and

51 WHEREAS, since new phrasing of the veteran status question in inmate  
52 assessments at all King County jail facilities was adopted in June 2015, the rate of  
53 inmates self-identifying as veterans has increased from three percent to over eighteen  
54 percent, and

55 WHEREAS , the department of adult and juvenile detention began its dedicated  
56 veteran housing unit pilot at the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center in June 2015, with  
57 a unit each for male and female veterans, and the housing pilot has had fifty-one veterans  
58 participate in the unit for male veterans between June 2015 and February 2016, and

59 WHEREAS, the veterans-focused programming recommended in the Improving  
60 Programs and Services for Incarcerated Veterans Report has been serving incarcerated  
61 veterans at the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center since June 2015; and

62 WHEREAS, nearly all veteran-specific programming provided to inmates in the  
63 veterans program at the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center is provided by volunteers,  
64 while the services requested by veteran participants are increasingly diverse;

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

66 A. The executive is requested to develop and transmit to the council:

67 1. A report on the status of the dedicated veteran housing pilot and veterans-  
68 focused programming at the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center as undertaken  
69 pursuant to the work and implementation plan included in the report attached to Motion  
70 14301. The report should summarize work to-date and preliminary recidivism data, and  
71 provide options and recommendations for sustainable continuation of the pilot and  
72 programming; and

73 2. An appropriation ordinance appropriating at least \$75,000 for the veterans  
74 housing pilot and veterans-focused programing at the Norm Maleng Regional Justice  
75 Center if such an appropriation is not included in the executive's second-quarter omnibus  
76 appropriations ordinance, or for whatever greater amount the executive deems  
77 appropriate after conducting the necessary analysis to formulate the report requested by  
78 this motion, to support the program for the remainder of 2016.

79 B. The executive shall develop the report in collaboration with the department of  
80 adult and juvenile detention, the department of community and human services and the  
81 department of public health.

82 C. The report shall include the following:

83 1. A summary of the status of the work described in the work and  
84 implementation plan outlined in the report accepted by Motion 14301;

85           2. A summary of the number of unduplicated program participants to-date,  
86 including the number of veterans served in the dedicated veterans housing unit, through  
87 veteran-specific programming outside of the dedicated veterans housing unit, or both;

88           3. Any data or information available on recidivism of program participants or  
89 successful referrals to other services after program participants' release;

90           4. Aggregate, nonidentifying demographic information about the veterans  
91 incarcerated during the period of time being reported and about the program participants,  
92 if available;

93           5. Suggestions for improving coordination and program delivery, including  
94 suggestions for increasing participation by female veterans; and

95           6. Options and recommendations for sustainable continuation of the program,  
96 particularly in light of lessons learned and additional or emergent needs identified by the  
97 executive including consideration of funding for program staffing, training or other needs  
98 for the remainder of 2016.

99           D. The executive should transmit:

100           1. The report and a motion accepting the report by August 31, 2016, in the form  
101 of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain  
102 the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the chief of staff, the  
103 policy staff director and the lead staff for the law and justice committee, or its successor;  
104 and

105           2. The appropriation ordinance by August 31, 2016, if such an appropriation is  
106 not included in the executive's second-quarter omnibus appropriations ordinance.

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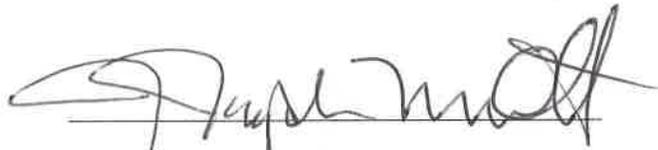
Motion 14632 was introduced on 3/28/2016 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 4/25/2016, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci

No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None