



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

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

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19 WHEREAS, in 2017, recognizing the importance of maintaining viable
20 alternatives to secure detention, the council created the special committee on alternatives
21 to secure detention, and

22 WHEREAS, in response to the council including Proviso P3 in the 2019-2020
23 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18835, Section 19, King County formed the
24 pretrial reform working group including representatives from the department of public
25 defense, the prosecuting attorney's office, the superior and districts courts, the department
26 of adult and juvenile detention, the council, the department of judicial administration and
27 community and nonprofit organizations working to reduce pretrial incarceration, and

28 WHEREAS, in 2019, the pretrial reform working group developed a report
29 containing analysis and recommendations for reducing incarceration rates of adult
30 inmates at the county's adult secure detention facilities, and

31 WHEREAS, in an effort to address the disproportionate impact that the bail
32 system in King County has on low-income residents, the 2019-2020 Biennial Budget
33 Ordinance included \$400,000 in funding for the department of community and human
34 services to contract with a King County nonprofit organization that pays bail for indigent
35 individuals who would otherwise spend their pretrial time in jail, and

36 WHEREAS, in response to Ordinance 18835, Section 62, Proviso P3, the
37 executive transmitted the Community Bail Fund Pilot Project Report, which included the
38 finding that as a result of release plans and support services offered by contracted
39 nonprofit organizations, "judges agreed to reduce total bail costs for these individuals
40 from \$688,000 in total to \$51,000," and included a recommendation to increase funding

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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,

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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

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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


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

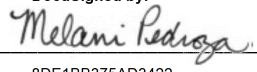
Motion 16361 was introduced on 4/4/2023 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/16/2023, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Balducci, Dembowski, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott,
Upthegrove and Zahilay
No: 2 - Dunn and von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

E76CE01F07B14EF...
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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Dave Upthegrove
dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov
Chair
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Signature

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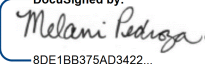
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Melani Pedroza
melani.pedroza@kingcounty.gov
Clerk of the Council
King County Council
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Completed	Security Checked	5/17/2023 1:06:30 PM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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