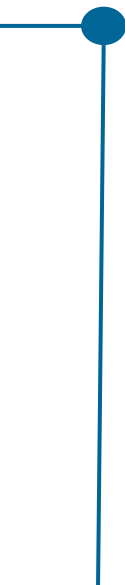




City of Bellevue

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

Trisna Tanus & Steve Penner
September 23, 2025



Direction

Consider directing staff to prepare an ordinance imposing mandatory minimum sentences on repeat offenders of certain theft crimes

AGENDA



Recalling Council Direction



Components of Draft Code



Basis of Draft Code



Additional Information

Recalling Council Direction

- Intent: Reduce public disorder crimes in Bellevue
- March 11 Direction:
 - Bring back draft code in six months
 - Include more information, including data from other cities (Everett and Marysville) that have passed similar ordinances and updates about the Bellevue community court



Components of Draft Code

Crimes Included	Theft 3rd degree
Repeat Offender	• 18 years or older • 2 or more convictions of theft in WA in the past 2 years
Minimum Sentence	30 days for repeat offenders
Discretionary Provisions	• Court may order electronic home monitoring if the sentence would present <u>substantial</u> risk of mental or physical harm • If eligible, defendants may participate in diversion programs

Basis for Draft Code

1. Focus on crimes that are the most impactful to Bellevue:

Theft 3rd degree

- Highest reported crime in Bellevue year over year
- Financial burden on retailers, customers and sales tax revenues
- Erode confidence in societal fairness
- Many items locked behind glass cabinets and metal gates

Crime	2023	2024	2025*
Theft 3 rd degree (shoplifting, theft from mail, other thefts)	2576	2626	1965
Vehicle prowling (theft from vehicles)	1062	1025	598
Theft of vehicles (auto theft)	739	531	188

* Assumes yearly total based on January – August 2025 numbers

Basis for Draft Code

2. Focus on offenders who are most negatively impacting Bellevue: Repeat Offenders

- Careful consideration of the characteristics of offenders to be subjected to the ordinance
- Target those actively reoffending and disregarding the laws
- Defined as having two or more prior theft convictions in WA within the last two years



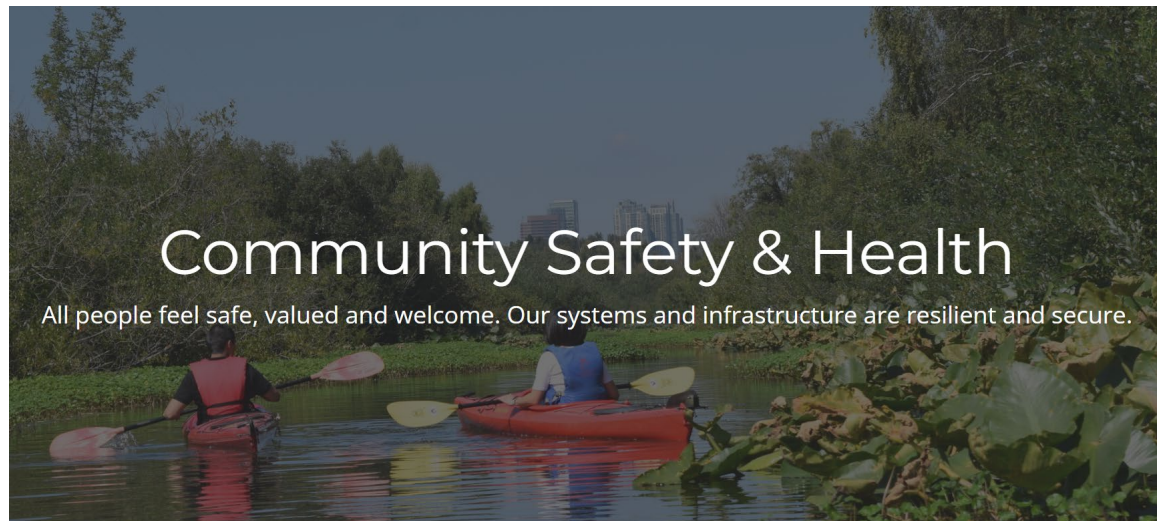
Photo of South Correctional Entity (SCORE) from scorejail.org

Basis for Draft Code

3. Maintain legislative and judicial balance

- Message that Bellevue does not tolerate repeat offenders
- Deter potential offenders w/ automatic, consistent sentencing
- Protect the public

- Responsive to unique facts and circumstances
- Able to use other available tools that may be more effective (diversion programs)



Data on Similar Mandates

- Everett and Marysville
 - Difficult to gather correlating data between police, prosecutors, courts, treatment facilities, jail
 - Do not have conclusive metrics on efficacy
- No conclusory data on efficacy of mandatory minimum sentencing
 - Criminal justice system is very complex
 - No benchmark data
 - Not a controlled environment, many variables
 - Varied opinions from the general public or experts



Bellevue Community Court

- Launched on July 15 at the Bellevue Library
- Identify and address the underlying challenges to reduce recidivism
- Collaboration between the criminal justice system and other systems (mental health, substance use, human services, housing, employment)
- Participants cannot have any violent felony convictions or current charges, or sex offender history
- Currently around 20 participants

Bellevue to open new community court — in a library

July 7, 2025 at 6:00 am | Updated July 7, 2025 at 6:00 am



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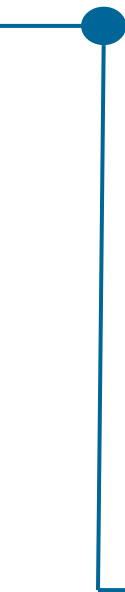
Other Relevant Information

Areas of Impact	Current	After Ordinance
Sentence	20 days (average)	30 days (minimum)
Actual Jail Time	13 days (w/ good time)	20 days (w/ good time)
Defendants Affected	-	10% or 70 per year
Additional Jail Time	-	490 days per year
Additional Jail Cost	-	~\$83,000-120,000 per year



Components of Draft Code

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