



City of Bellevue

Proposed Ordinance Adopting Public Defense Standards

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Direction

Following discussion, staff is seeking Council direction to prepare an ordinance adopting public defense standards for final action at a future meeting.

AGENDA



Public Defense Program Overview



Proposed Ordinance



Council Direction

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Public Defense Program

Public Defense Program Components

- Client screening
- Contracted firms providing legal counsel



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Proposed Ordinance

Proposed Ordinance

- Supports quality and effective legal representation
- Incorporates guidance from:
 - Washington State Bar Association Standards for Indigent Defense Services
 - Relevant court cases
 - Rules adopted by the Washington State Supreme Court
- Adds section to the City Code

Proposed Ordinance

- Addresses public defense service quality, including:
 - Contractor duties and responsibilities
 - Case load limits
 - Reporting requirements
 - Accessibility
 - Resolving client complaints
 - Training and supervision requirements

Ordinance Benefits

- To support quality and effective representation
- To codify existing practices
- To qualify the City to apply for grant funds that can be used to improve the program





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