



DATE: June 26, 2023

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Kathy Gerla, City Attorney, 452-7220  
*City Attorney's Office*

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SUBJECT: New Drug Possession and Use Law and Implications for Bellevue

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On May 16, in a special legislative session, the state legislature passed what's known as the "Blake fix" bill, SB 5536, concerning the possession and use of certain drugs.

At the June 26 Council meeting, staff will present a City Manager's Report that provides information about SB 5536--specifically its implications for the City of Bellevue. Staff will also discuss current practices and opportunities in the City's criminal justice system for individuals to be referred to substance use disorder treatment and present associated data. Staff will also provide information in response to Council questions concerning potential funding for SUD treatment and the status of efforts on possibly establishing a community court.