

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing execution of a five-year interlocal agreement with South Correctional Entity (SCORE) for inmate housing.

Mark Tarantino, Police Major, 452-7660
John Burgos, Police Sergeant, 452-4233
Police Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes execution of a five-year interlocal agreement with SCORE for inmate housing.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9840

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The City of Bellevue currently contracts with three agencies to provide jail services for misdemeanor inmates: SCORE, King County Department of Adult Detention, and the City of Issaquah. Bellevue has contracted with SCORE for misdemeanor jail services since 2012 and is now the City's primary inmate housing provider.

SCORE has become the City's preferred jail facility because it offers medical and psychiatric care and provides video court services. Since the Issaquah jail facility does not offer medical or psychiatric care, it is unable to accept inmates needing these services. The Issaquah and the King County jail facilities also currently do not offer video court. Video court allows for court hearings to be held remotely, where the inmate does not have to be physically transferred to the courtroom for a hearing. This reduces the City's operational costs of fuel, vehicles, and personnel, as Bellevue Police Department employees are no longer required to regularly transport inmates to court. This also reduces safety concerns during transport and at the courthouse.

Under the terms of the current interlocal agreement (ILA) with SCORE, the City pays for 25 "guaranteed" beds per day at a fixed rate of \$128 per bed regardless of actual bed use or type. In 2019, SCORE conducted a review and reorganized its financial operations and rate structure and began to implement daily rate surcharges based on bed "types" such as mental health and medical.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created major disruption to the criminal justice system. Jail facilities have implemented a maximum cell occupancy of one to ensure social distancing between inmates. Court proceedings and new jail bookings were also impacted, leading to a decrease in the City's jail population. As a result, the City's average daily inmate population has dropped significantly, from 39.1 in February 2020, to an average of 7.0 in September 2020.

Recognizing these impacts and the continued booking restrictions, SCORE has waived the guaranteed bed fee during the emergency and is instead charging for actual beds used each day, creating a significant drop in the City's 2020 jail costs. SCORE is also waiving its new \$35 booking fee for 2021.

Due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City will commit to nine guaranteed beds in the new five-year ILA, with the option to amend this number in the future to better reflect actual usage.

Following a presentation on November 2, Council directed staff to return with a Resolution authorizing execution of a five-year interlocal agreement with SCORE for inmate housing.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

RCW 39.34.180 and RCW 70.48.090 allow the City to contract with other cities or counties for jail services through an ILA.

Executing this ILA will provide certainty and continuity of service for inmate housing. This ILA, in concert with the City's contracts for jail services with King County and Issaquah, will give the City the flexibility to serve the needs of its inmate population while keeping costs down.

Fiscal Impact

If approved, the ILA will be effective January 1, 2021 and will terminate on December 31, 2025. The City is committing to nine guaranteed beds with the option to amend this number in the future to better reflect actual usage. Any increase to the general population daily housing rate, daily rate surcharges, or other services provided by SCORE will not exceed three percent per year.

The proposed rates and charges for 2021 are listed below.

2021 Rates

Daily Housing Rates:

General Population – Guaranteed Beds	\$128.00
General Population – Non-Guaranteed Beds	\$184.00

Daily Rate Surcharges:

Mental Health – Residential Beds	\$159.00
Medical – Acute Beds	\$217.00
Mental Health - Acute Beds	\$278.00

<u>Booking Fee:</u>	\$35.00	(Waived)
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The following table illustrates the anticipated budget impact of the proposed ILA through 2025. As required under the ILA, SCORE will notify the City by July 1 of each year of any change to its fees and charges for the following year to give the City sufficient time to adjust its annual budget. Unless otherwise agreed to, any new fees and charges would become effective on January 1 of the following year.

	2019 Actual	2020 Projection	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Daily Housing	Fixed Rate @ \$124 per guaranteed bed	Fixed Rate @ \$128 per guaranteed bed	\$ 511,937	\$ 559,544	\$ 611,579	\$ 668,452	\$ 730,614
Mental Health- Residential			\$ 188,214	\$ 205,716	\$ 224,847	\$ 245,756	\$ 268,610
Medical Acute			\$ 130,332	\$ 142,452	\$ 155,699	\$ 170,178	\$ 186,003
Mental Health- Acute			\$ 13,356	\$ 14,598	\$ 15,955	\$ 17,439	\$ 19,061
	\$ 1,124,597	\$ 611,072	\$ 843,839	\$ 922,310	\$ 1,008,080	\$ 1,101,825	\$ 1,204,288
Booking Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,480	\$ 79,030	\$ 83,860	\$ 89,005
Total Cost	\$ 1,124,597	\$ 611,072	\$ 843,839	\$ 996,790	\$ 1,087,110	\$ 1,185,685	\$ 1,293,293

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of a five-year interlocal agreement with South Correctional Entity (SCORE) for inmate housing.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 9840

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

SCORE Interlocal Agreement