

## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing execution of the Interlocal Agreement for provision of District Court Services between King County and the City of Bellevue.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As directed by Council on September 20, this Resolution authorizes a new 13-year interlocal agreement, which includes an initial five-year term and two four-year extensions, with King County for the provision of court services.

## RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10003

## BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Under Washington State law (RCW 39.34.180), cities are responsible for providing criminal justice services for misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses committed by adults in their respective jurisdictions. Cities must carry out their criminal justice responsibilities through the use of their own courts, staff, and facilities, or by entering into contracts or interlocal agreements to provide these services.

Since 2006, multiple cities, including Bellevue, have contracted with King County to provide the local court services that cities are required, by law, to provide. Services are provided through the King County District Court.

The King County District Court (KCDC) is the largest court of limited jurisdiction in the state of Washington and is responsible for processing approximately 250,000 matters per year. KCDC currently holds court and provides public access at 10 facilities located throughout King County, including Auburn, Bellevue, Burien, Issaquah, King County Courthouse in Seattle, King County Jail in Seattle, Redmond, Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, Shoreline, and Vashon Island. The facilities are linked together as one court through governance and technology. A court user can pay a ticket, clear a warrant, access court files, find out about their case, file legal papers, or research a case at any location.

King County uses a portion of the Bellefield Building to operate the District Court in Bellevue under a separate Office Space Use Agreement between the City and King County. The City leases the Bellefield Building from the building owner.

The ILA cost structure between King County and the cities was collaboratively developed. Costs are assigned to cities based on use of the services. The ILA specifically identifies which costs the cities will pay and at what level based on the percentage of workload.

The third five-year term of the current ILA for district court services ends on December 31. Staff for 12 cities negotiated a new proposed ILA for district court services with King County.

### **Contract Terms**

No significant substantive changes are proposed to the existing ILA. The proposed changes are primarily to improve clarity or ensure the agreement conforms with current laws, including the Washington Supreme Court General Rules, which outline the authority and rules of district courts. Changes were also made to reflect practices and flexibility needed to address emergency situations. The cost model has been updated to better reflect the intent that the parties pay only for the services, staff, and facility space used in conducting their business.

Significant terms of the agreement are summarized in the September 20, 2021 King County District Court Interlocal Agreement Update agenda memo.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

RCW 39.34.180 requires Bellevue to provide the court services that King County has been providing and would continue to provide under the proposed new ILA.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Sufficient budgeted funds are available to fund this agreement in the 2021-2022 adopted budget. Subsequent years of the agreement will be addressed through future budget processes.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of the Interlocal Agreement for provision of District Court Services between King County and the City of Bellevue.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

Proposed Resolution No. 10003

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Interlocal Agreement for Provision of District Court Services Between King County and the City of Bellevue