

Statement of Shared Commitment

Monday, October 13, 2014

Statement of intent between King County and the City of Seattle to continue to address racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice system

Overcoming centuries of racial disparity in our nation's criminal justice system will require concerted, ongoing effort from every branch in the system, all levels of government, elected officials, and the communities we serve. King County and the City of Seattle have demonstrated leadership on this important issue and taken action to address disproportionality. Working together, we will continue to be committed to ensuring that our criminal justice system is fair, just and equitable.

To that end, this document serves as a statement of intent between King County ("County") and City of Seattle ("City") with regard to commitments pertaining to the proposed King County Children and Family Justice Center.

The County acknowledges that the capital project will be built. As the project proceeds, both parties agree to address the following in order to continue to reduce racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice system:

1. Race and Social Justice Assessment and Action Plan. King County and the City of Seattle will work with a third party organization to facilitate a race and social justice analysis of King County's proposed juvenile court and detention facility located in the City of Seattle. The assessment will include, but not be limited to the following components:
 - a. **Partnership and stakeholder interview process:** the County and City intend to partner with a third party organization to engage in a stakeholder interview and scoping process for a racial impact assessment. This process is intended to gather stakeholder input about the scope of the assessment and seek agreement on an instrument. This scoping will include interviews with members of Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) and Ending the Prison Industrial Complex (EPIC) as well as judges and other elected leaders, staff in the juvenile justice system, partnering agencies as well as other stakeholders identified by interviewer, the City and the County.

In addition to interviews, this process will be informed by:

- i. The list of questions submitted to the City and County by YUIR that identify key questions about history of the detention center and current experience of youth, particularly youth of color in the institution (attached).
- ii. The work King County has already completed on disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system as well information and studies available about other existing programs and initiatives.

The scope of the assessment is intended to include the review of policy and programming issues as they relate to the proposed Children and Family Justice Center project and racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system. The assessment should also include portions of the juvenile justice system that occur prior to, or outside of the scope of the Capital Project, such as arrest and police contact that is largely under the jurisdiction of the city governments as well as the other upstream issues such as education and public health that impact the lives of individuals and communities that are entering the juvenile justice system.

- b. Additional Phases and Timeline:** A detailed timeline of additional phases will be proposed with the assessment tool. We expect the following phases to be included:
- i. Stakeholder Interviews and Scoping: the scoping phase outlined above expected to be complete by December 31, 2014.
 - ii. Assessment: an initial phase of the racial justice assessment and early action plan to be completed by March 31, 2015 to have the maximum opportunity to influence changes in schematic design. Additional assessment may be proposed on a longer time and the County shall remain open to receiving further policy and program feedback with respect to the Capital Facilities project through December 31, 2015.
 - iii. Action Plan: In addition to an assessment, the County should generate an action-plan of programs, policies and/or changes to the Capital Facilities project program that can be accomplished in the schematic or final design phases that can improve racial equity in juvenile justice outcomes by end of 2015.
 - iv. Implementation Phase: the action plan will be followed by a more detailed implementation schedule with responsible parties identified.
 - v. Evaluation: the County will establish clear means for identifying and measuring progress towards goals outlined in the action and implementation plans.
2. In addition to the assessment, the City and County will strive to take action on the following targeted partnerships:
- a. Restorative Justice Pilot Projects. Throughout 2014, the County's Juvenile Court, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, and Alternative Dispute Resolution section have partnered with the City's Office of Restorative Justice to provide training and exposure to restorative justice principles and practices. The City and County should commit to continue these efforts into 2015 and specifically to identify one or more pilot projects to expand the use of restorative justice in our juvenile justice system.
 - b. Children in School. Mutual efforts by the County and the City to encourage the Seattle School District (and, for KC to encourage other school districts) to reduce the use of

disciplinary suspensions which have been identified as a key precursor to youth involvement in the criminal justice system/detention. Continue to encourage school districts across the county to make filing of a truancy petition a last resort and to ensure the court's response to the petition is effective in reengaging children in school.

- c. Reducing Warrants and Failures to Appear. Youth who fail to appear for court or to comply with court orders represent a significant percentage of those who end up in detention, adding to disproportionate minority confinement. The city and the county will explore ways to reduce failure to appear in court. Expanding the current warrant reduction program, providing transportation services to Seattle youth with hearings and other ideas should be explored.

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