

Principles for Negotiation of a New Jail Services Agreement City of Seattle and King County

FACT SHEET

Setting the Stage

In 2010, King County and the City of Seattle worked with other city partners on achieving several important milestones with regard to jail services:

- Final approval of the Jail Services Agreement (JSA) with 24 cities (including Seattle) for 2012 through 2016. As part of this agreement, King County agreed to provide the cities up to 330 beds in 2013 and 250 beds in 2016.
- Ending the process to site a new jail in Seattle or in North King County through a combination of anticipated available bed capacity in the region through 2020, including 150 beds from the County.
- In the fourth quarter of 2010, the new Regional Jail Group, representing jails and cities throughout the county, was successfully launched. It will be the forum to track jail population trends, anticipate the use of existing jail capacity, improve coordination across jails in the region, and cooperatively explore options for meeting the region's long term jail capacity needs.
- Final approval of an amendment to the JSA to lower the jail fees for 2011, in recognition that the methodology in the JSA unexpectedly overstated these fees.

Proposed Long-Term, Durable Partnership

The work in 2010 set the stage for a new long-term, durable partnership between the City of Seattle and King County as articulated in a set of principles agreed to by Mayor McGinn and Executive Constantine. The benefits of this partnership include:

- The County would make a durable commitment to provide jail beds to the City through 2030 to meet the City's forecasted misdemeanor inmate needs.
- The City's courts, law enforcement, and attorneys would maintain the significant operational advantage of having the City's pretrial inmates located in the downtown Seattle location of the County's correctional facility, literally across the street from the City's municipal justice center.
- For the County, the new JSA would provide for a predictable minimum use of its jail capacity, leading to greater operational efficiency through economies of scale.
- Both jurisdictions would benefit financially through reasonable and predictable fees for services.
- The City and the County continue their shared interest of pursuing a range of cost-effective diversion, alternative, and reentry programs that safely keep low-risk populations out of jail so that capacity is available for those who pose a serious risk to public safety.
- The principles provide a framework to explore similar arrangements with other cities that contract with King County for jail services.

Highlights of the Principles

The agreement signed by the Mayor and the King County Executive contains 12 principles for negotiating a new Jail Services Agreement, including the following:

- Term: The new Jail Services Agreement would begin in 2012 and extend through 2030.
- Secure Bed Cap: The maximum number of City inmates held in the County's jail facilities would be set at a fixed amount each year while allowing for temporary spikes. The Secure Bed Cap is 228 in 2012 and rises to as many as 335 inmates in 2030.
- Secure Bed Floor: The City would pay for a minimum number of beds regardless of its use. The Secure Bed Floor is 175 in 2012 and rises to as many as 258 inmates in 2030.
- Adjustments to the Bed Cap and Floor: Given the unpredictable nature of jail forecasts and the possibility of supplemental contracting arrangements for the City, this principle allows for the City to decrease its Secure Bed Floor and Cap based on its revised need. Further, the City and the County can agree to increase the Secure Bed Floor and Cap based on available capacity.
- Jail Fees: The most significant change is a reduction in the fee for booking inmates into the County.
- Jail Planning and Possible Jail Bed Expansion Surcharge: Given the long lead time to bring new jail beds on-line, the City and the County would share their respective jail population forecasts and contracting arrangements in support of jail planning. If there is a determination that additional jail capacity is needed, this principle sets forth the approach for the City to contribute to the capital costs.
- Replacing the JSA and Other Provisions: The target date to transmit the new JSA to the respective councils of the City and the County is June 15, 2011.

Key Facts

- The average daily adult secure population in King County's jail facilities in 2010 was 2,127. Note that this 2010 figure is 14% less than 2,465 which is the comparable figure in 2007.
- In 2010, the contract population in King County jails for the City of Seattle was about 192.
- The number of inmates that King County can house on a regular basis is about 2800.
- King County currently has contracting relationships with 24 cities through 2016. Excluding the City of Seattle, the average daily population for these cities totaled approximately 50 in 2010.