

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussion of Issues of Shared Interest with King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski		
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office		
PRESENTED BY:	John Norris, Assistant City Manager		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski represents the 1st Council District in King County, which includes the City of Shoreline. Consequently, Councilmember Dembowski and the City Council have a shared interest in maintaining a common understanding of information, interests and priorities that make a difference in the lives of Shoreline residents. Tonight's conversation will explore those shared interests, many of which are identified and summarized in this staff report.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Tonight's discussion with King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski is informational in nature and has no financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required by the City Council. Staff recommends City Council discuss these issues of shared interest and provide staff direction for further action, as warranted.

Approved By: City Manager **JN** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski represents the 1st Council District in King County, which includes the City of Shoreline. Consequently, Councilmember Dembowski and the City Council have a shared interest in maintaining a common understanding of information, interests and priorities. Tonight's conversation will explore many of those shared interests, five of which are identified and summarized in this staff report.

This report will address the following:

1. A status update of the City and County pandemic responses;
2. Proposed King County Charter amendments and other issues related to social justice and law enforcement - some of the amendments having been sponsored by Councilmember Dembowski;
3. The current success of the RADAR program and prospects for future funding;
4. The potential for identifying and funding a site within Shoreline for near-term emergency shelter and long-term permanent supportive housing;
5. Potential reprogramming of affordable housing/transit-oriented development funding that was originally proposed to support affordable housing as part of a larger redevelopment of Fircrest Campus; and
6. An update on transportation projects of shared interest.

Additionally, the Council and Councilmember Dembowski may identify and raise other issues during the course of their conversation.

DISCUSSION

COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts and Response

The outbreak of COVID-19 is an active situation that is quickly evolving. The City is committed to continuing to provide services to community members while following the Governor's guidelines to ensure public and staff safety. The City, and all of King County, is currently in Phase 2 of the State's Safe Start plan. While some limited activities are allowed, it is still safest for residents to stay home.

There have also been significant economic impacts related to this public health emergency. Washington and King County have seen unprecedented job losses since the onset of the crisis, and the Shoreline community has been no exception. Not only do the job losses and business impacts severely hamper our community's quality of life, but revenue losses endanger basic services as well.

The City has experienced significant financial and operational impacts since the start of the pandemic. Our forecast shows a \$7.6 million (16 %) loss in budgeted revenue in 2020. If the economic recovery is protracted, our loss of revenue could extend well into the future. Staff is currently forecasting a revenue loss of \$4.3 million for the 2021-2022 biennium and ongoing losses of between 2% to 3% every year over the next eight years. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City had balanced budget projections through 2022.

The City has been working to respond to the best of its limited resources to the many emergent needs created by the pandemic. Key examples include:

- Addressing community need. The Shoreline City Council authorized a \$150,000 Community Emergency Response Fund to help the most vulnerable in our community. The fund provided rapid and flexible access to resources for local non-profits and faith-based organizations providing emergency services to Shoreline residents. The City is now partnering with community partners to provide grocery vouchers to qualified families for support over the summer.
- Supporting our business community. The City has been reaching out to Shoreline businesses, in partnership with the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, to help connect them to both federal and state support programs. The City has also granted \$500,000 in CARES Act Relief funding provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce and the King County Council to support small businesses in their efforts to survive this pandemic. The City is very appreciative of the County allocation of \$86,000 in CARES Act Relief Funds to help fund the City's Small Business Support Program.
- Ensuring Financial Sustainability. The City is carefully assessing its response to the financial realities of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are taking a three-pronged approach to balance resources and expenditures. The approach calls for:
 - Cancelling or deferring several local investments,
 - Identifying savings in the current budget, and
 - Making budget reductions for the coming biennium.

The City and King County have also established a strong track record of working together in the face of this unprecedented crisis. The establishment of a temporary Assessment Center/Recovery Center facility in Shoreline stands as a strong example of this.

Social Justice, Law Enforcement, and the King County Charter

Across the country, residents are looking to government for support as they struggle to meet serious challenges to their physical, social and economic health. This has been compounded in recent weeks by the outpouring of calls for social justice. Local, state and federal governments will all play important roles as we manage the pandemic and the important, necessary community conversations on race, social justice and equity.

A significant element of both national and local calls for social justice relate to the provision of law enforcement services. At the July 27, 2020 City Council meeting, the City Council reviewed and discussed the structure of law enforcement services in Shoreline and King County, as well as a number of changes to that current structure that have recently been proposed. A more extensive summary of these issues can be found in the July 27 staff report, which is available at the following link:

<http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2020/staffreport072720-9a.pdf>.

Several proposed amendments to the King County Charter were placed by the King County Council on the ballot for voter consideration in November. Each addresses the provision of law enforcement services:

- Subpoena Power for the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO). The current ordinance authorizing OLEO grants subpoena power to the agency, but that authority is a mandatory subject of bargaining and has yet to be implemented. Advocates for this amendment seek to have that authority stem from the more foundational Charter.
- Modifications to Inquests. An inquest is an administrative, fact-finding inquiry into and review of the manner, facts and circumstances of the death of an individual, including deaths that involve a member of any law enforcement agency within King County while in the performance of an officer's duties. The proposed Charter amendment would make technical changes to the inquest process and, more importantly, require the County to assign an attorney to represent the family of the decedent in the inquest proceeding.
- Making King County Sheriff an Appointed Position. The proposed Charter amendment would reestablish the County Sheriff as an appointed position and would require the Executive and the County Council to consider stakeholder input before appointing and confirming a Sheriff.
- Allowing County Council to establish or modify the duties of the King County Sheriff. Under this Charter amendment, the Sheriff's duties would be prescribed by ordinance rather than "general law" and would remove the language prohibiting KCSO from being abolished or combined with another executive department and from having the department's duties decreased by the County Council.

Additionally, Councilmember Dembowski sponsored a County Council motion to ask the King County Police Officers Guild to reconsider bargaining on issues related to subpoena power and independent investigation. This represents an additional ongoing effort among involved parties and key stakeholders to advance these issues.

RADAR Funding

While current events highlight the pressing need for alternative approaches to policing, the City of Shoreline and Shoreline Police Department have already taken steps in that direction with the creation of the Response Awareness De-escalation and Referral (RADAR) program. North Sound RADAR has become a valuable resource for Shoreline Police, as they work closely with Mental Health Professionals (MHPs), also called Navigators, to connect those most in need to available services. Some of the RADAR goals are to reduce use of force incidents and to reduce repeat calls for service.

The program provides officers with a structured and consistent way to address mental health and substance abuse problems in the community. The Bothell, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park and Kenmore Police Departments are seeing similar success with North Sound RADAR. The five cities share a Program Manager and Navigators that are funded by King County MIDD funding and a WASPC grant.

RADAR was subjected to significant cuts to its budget in the current biennium, which the program was able to manage. However, the cuts raise concerns about the prospects for funding this important service in the coming biennium.

Potential Shoreline Site for Near-Term Emergency Shelter and Long-Term Permanent Supportive Housing

City staff have been working with staff from King County and the King County Housing Authority to explore potential acquisition of a facility at 16357 Aurora Avenue N, which until recently operated as a nursing home called The Oaks at Forest Bay, for the purpose of siting a shelter/navigation center in North King County. If the acquisition proves viable, staff expect to receive significant operating support through a Washington State Department of Commerce grant to provide round-the clock-emergency shelter access for single adults beginning in January 2021.

Siting this shelter would fulfill a key City Council Goal Action Step. Specifically, in April of this year, Council adopted Council Goal No. 5, Action Step No. 7, which is to begin a process of developing partnerships with North King County cities and other key stakeholders in support of siting a 24/7 shelter/navigation center to serve homeless single adults in North King County.

Long term, King County staff have expressed interest in using this site to develop permanent supportive housing. In the meantime, this facility is remarkably ready to serve as a COVID-19 safe option for emergency shelter that could accommodate up to 60 single men, single women, and couples.

The City Council will have discussed this shelter/navigation center opportunity on August 10th, where staff was seeking additional direction from Council on whether to and how to move forward with next steps on this project. This includes working on both land use issues to allow the shelter/navigation center to locate on this site and a community engagement strategy. The City is committed to working with our partners to address any community concerns as effectively as possible. The staff report for the Council discussion related to this topic can be found at the following link: <http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2020/staffreport081020-9a.pdf>.

Potential Reprogramming of Affordable Housing/Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Funding

In 2019 at the start of the current biennium, there was serious consideration of the development of affordable housing as part of a larger redevelopment of the Fircrest Campus. In facilitation of this initiative, the King County Council appropriated \$500,000 for planning support from its affordable housing/TOD fund. As the biennium draws to a close, the prospects for affordable housing on the Fircrest Campus remain unclear, but the need to develop affordable housing in proximity to transit remains as important as ever. City and County staff are currently examining other potential options within Shoreline for pursuing this important policy goal.

Other Transportation Issues

Transportation issues of shared concern include:

- Continued development of the N 148th Street ped/bike bridge. After updating both Council and members of Councilmember Dembowski's staff, the project continues to move ahead. City and County staff will develop a process for finalizing a funding plan for the County's contribution to the project.
- Continued development of the 145th Street Interchange. This project has received strong funding support, but staff continue to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on potential funding sources.
- Metro service reductions. In the wake of the economic impacts of the pandemic, Metro is making important decisions on service reductions. Both City and County officials and staff are engaged in these conversations.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

Tonight's discussion with King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski is informational in nature and has no financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required by the City Council. Staff recommends City Council discuss these issues of shared interest and provide staff direction for further action, as warranted.