



Memorandum

DATE: October 14, 2019

TO: City Council
Debbie Tarry, City Manager

FROM: Christina Arcidy, Management Analyst

RE: Shoreline Community Court Implementation

CC: John Norris, Assistant City Manager;

On April 24, 2019, King County District Court (KCDC) Presiding Judge Donna Tucker presented to City Council regarding partnering to host a Community Court in Shoreline. Council requested staff to move forward with the planning of Community Court after the presentation. This memo is an update to Council regarding the planning that has taken place over the last six months and an update on Community Court costs.

Planning Updates

KCDC has worked closely with City staff to facilitate the planning for Shoreline's Community Court. It is anticipated that there will be a soft launch in January 2020, followed by a Grand Opening with invitations to City Council and other elected officials in Spring 2020. The soft launch allows KCDC and City staff to work out any issues with court logistics, such as technology issues, screening procedures, space set up, or others.

Planning for Shoreline's Community Court has been overseen by the Shoreline Community Court Steering Committee which split into five workgroups with various staff from KCDC, the City, and other supporting community partners. The work of these groups is described as follows:

Logistics – KCDC and City staff worked together to find an appropriate location and day of the week for Community Court within Shoreline. Shoreline City Hall was determined to be the best location due to its proximity to transit, known location to potential defendants, and adequate space within the building. Parking for court staff and providers will be offsite or on city streets, while defendants will be welcome to use visitor parking as it is available if they drive. Most defendants will be taking public transit.

Court will occur from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, with pre-court meetings and assessments starting at 12:30 p.m. and court wrapping up by 4:00 p.m. Court will occur in Council Chambers, while the Resource Center and court room screening will occur in the first floor lobby. The Executive Session Council Meeting Room (Room 104) will be reserved for private meetings with attorneys and clients.

Eligibility – Shoreline’s Community Court will have similar eligibility to the Burien and Redmond Community Courts. Participants cannot have any violent felony convictions within last five (5) years or pending violent felony charges. They cannot have any sexual offense convictions. If a charge is listed as possibly eligible, it means the City Prosecutor and Public Defender will review the circumstances of the case and the individual’s history to determine if Community Court would be appropriate for them. The current list of offences by eligibility is listed here:

Eligible	Possibly Eligible	Not Eligible
Theft 3	Assault 4 domestic violence (DV)	Assault 4 DV – Intimate partners
Possession of stolen property	Malicious mischief DV	DUI
Criminal trespass 1 & 2		Driving offenses
Assault 4		
Minor in possession		
Disorderly conduct		
Possession of drug paraphernalia		
Malicious mischief		
Park charges		
Vehicle prowl		
Making or having burglary tools		
Anti-harassment violations		
Making or possessing motor vehicle theft tools		

Community Resource Center – Providers and volunteers are being recruited for the Community Resource Center and other supporting roles within Community Court. IKRON Greater Seattle, a behavioral treatment services non-profit, will likely serve as the case management organization, meaning they will keep track of and report weekly to court regarding all defendants’ progress complying with goals.

Communications – A communication and outreach plan has been drafted, and it focuses on educating the general public about Community Court, raising awareness among defendants and attorneys about this alternative court, and informing and attracting service providers to participate in the court-affiliated Community Resource Center. Appointed judges, KCDC staff, and City staff will be distributing Shoreline Community Court-branded materials, presenting to community groups (Council of Neighborhoods, Meridian Park Neighborhood Assoc., Echo Lake Neighborhood Assoc, etc.), and using traditional and social media outlets to share the news that Shoreline will be hosting Community Court.

Data and Evaluation – KCDC originally thought this team would convene in late October/early November, but instead KCDC would instead like to build on what has already occurred in Burien and Redmond and use the Shoreline Community Court Steering Committee by adding Shoreline specific data and evaluation metrics as opposed to convening a stand-alone committee. This topic will be addressed at the October Steering Committee Meeting.

Community Court Costs

Security Costs – Weapons screening is mandated in all courthouses according to state law. Anyone entering Council Chambers while Community Court is being held will be subject to screening. A Shoreline Police Officer will wand individuals before entering the courtroom and bags will be checked before entering the courtroom. Due to the chosen location and the ability for the officer to see into the courtroom, only one officer will be needed for Community Court.

The estimated security costs for the City using one Shoreline Police is \$10,250/yr. The estimate is based on the following calculation:

Overtime Cost = 2.5 hours/week * 48 weeks/year * \$85.41 (Deputy Step 6 OT rate)

Public Defense Costs – Staff is currently renegotiating a new five-year contract with our existing public defense firm who was selected through a Request For Proposal (RFP) process. Community Court was included in their proposal and the projected costs are lower than anticipated. There will be no net increase of public defense costs as a result of Community Court.

Prosecution Costs – Staff is currently negotiating a contract amendment with the contracted City Prosecutor for Community Court services. The cost for prosecution services will likely be \$75,000 in 2020, which will be covered by jail savings cost from 2019. Staff will address ongoing prosecution costs for Community Court in the 2021-2022 biennial budget process and anticipate the ongoing costs to be closer to \$35,000-\$50,000 per year.