



King County

Law and Justice Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	9	Name:	Clifton Curry
Proposed No.:	2016-0261	Date:	June 28, 2016

SUBJECT

A MOTION authorizing the department of adult and juvenile detention to accept a donation to the inmate welfare fund of religious materials valued at roughly four thousand five hundred dollars from the Islamic Center of Eastside, Bellevue Masjid.

SUMMARY

This proposed motion would authorize the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention to accept a donation of religious materials from the Islamic Center of Eastside worth approximately \$4,500. King County Code requires that donations of more than \$2,000 (with certain exceptions) be approved by the Council. The department must comply with federal and state laws that ensure that all inmates have access to religious services and materials. The department provides donated religious texts, brochures and reading materials to inmates upon request without cost. This motion would allow the department to accept this donation.

BACKGROUND

The King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention operates one of the largest detention systems in the Pacific Northwest. The department is responsible for the operation of two adult detention facilities--the King County Correctional Facility in Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC) in Kent—with over 30,000 bookings a year and an average daily population of 1,835 pre- and post-adjudicated felons and misdemeanants every day. The average daily population of the department’s Seattle facility is approximately 1,106 inmates and about 730 inmates housed at the MRJC. The department’s juvenile detention division houses 56 youth on an average daily basis.

The department of adult and juvenile detention is responsible for the operation of two adult detention and a juvenile detention facility. As part of its operations, the department must comply with the U.S. and State Constitutions, along with federal and state laws that ensure that all inmates have access to religious services and materials. The department's Inmate Welfare Fund is used to pay for a variety of inmate services,

including support to volunteer programs including faith-based ministry and the provision of religious materials. The department provides donated religious texts, brochures and reading materials to inmates upon request without cost.

King County employees are prohibited from soliciting donations; however, on occasion local businesses and clergy wish to support various department programs and offer financial assistance, such as donating religious and other materials. King County Code 2.80.010 requires that gifts, bequests and donations of more than \$2,000 can only be accepted upon behalf of the county after approval by motion of the county council. This provision was enacted in 1972.

The Islamic Center of Eastside, Bellevue Masjid would like to donate religious materials for the use of inmates with an estimated value of \$4,500. According to materials provided by the Executive, the department values community support and this request aligns with the County Strategic Plan on regional collaboration and providing resources for inmates. Adoption of this motion will ensure that this donation is accepted.

ANALYSIS

This proposed motion would authorize the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention to accept a donation of religious materials from the Islamic Center of Eastside worth approximately \$4,500. King County Code requires that donations of more than \$2,000 (with certain exceptions) be approved by the Council. The department must comply with federal and state laws that ensure that all inmates have access to religious services and materials. The department provides donated religious texts, brochures and reading materials to inmates upon request without cost. This motion would allow the department to accept this donation and appears reasonable.

ATTENDEES:

- William Hayes, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
- Steve Larsen, Chief of Administration, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2016-0261
2. Transmittal Letter