



Legislation Text

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AN ORDINANCE relating to the execution of assignments of contracts for public defense services between King County and Associated Counsel for the Accused, Northwest Defenders Association and The Defender Association.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Findings:

- A. On May 20, 2013, the King County council adopted Ordinance 17588 creating a department of public defense within the executive branch.
- B. Ordinance 17588 authorizes the department to provide public defense services to the state of Washington, tribal governments and municipalities in King County on a full-cost-recovery basis and to negotiate appropriate contractual agreements, subject to council approval by ordinance when required by law.
- C. Associated Counsel for the Accused ("ACA"), Northwest Defenders Association ("NDA") and The Defender Association ("TDA") entered into contracts with the city of Seattle ("the city") to provide public defender legal services to indigent persons charged with crimes in Seattle municipal court ("the contracts"). The contracts have a term of July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2014.
- D. Section 21 of the contracts authorizes assignment of the contracts with city's consent.
- E. The city has provided ACA, NDA and TDA consent to assign the contracts effective July 1, 2013, to King County.
- F. King County, the city, ACA, NDA and TDA value the expertise of public defenders providing services to the city and recognize the need to maintain the continuity of services and to ensure that current and

future clients have access to public defense services without disruption, as the settlement agreement is implemented.

G. The attached Assignment of Public Defense Services Contracts secures the city's ability to continue to receive public defender services. In exchange, the Assignment of Public Defense Services Contracts provides King County financial assurances that beginning July 1, 2013, the city's payment under the contracts shall be directly to King County.

SECTION 2. The King County executive is hereby authorized to execute Assignment of Public Defense Services Contracts with Associated Counsel for the Accused, Northwest Defenders Association and The Defender Association in substantially the form of the attached assignments. In addition, the executive is directed to review the underlying agreements between the agencies and the city of Seattle and reach agreement on and execute revisions that are necessary to reflect King County as the assigned party to the contracts.