



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Mark Lauzier, Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the Nisqually Tribe for Jail Services – June 16, 2015**
DATE: June 10, 2015

SUMMARY:

Resolution authorizing the execution of a jail services agreement with the Nisqually Tribe for housing, transportation and coordination of services for sentenced inmates from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017, with the option of three one-year renewals. This is one of several agreements that in total will provide a long-term solution to meet Tacoma's jail incarceration needs.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Strickland and Council Members Campbell, Lonergan and Woodards.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

This agreement for jail services best aligns with the following strategic policy priorities:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

Due to cancellation of the Fife jail services agreement by the City of Fife and the desire to have a more affordable, long-term agreement with Pierce County because of the pending jail services agreement expiration, the City of Tacoma must approve several jail agreements. These agreements will help provide a smooth and orderly transition from Fife to Pierce County for pre-sentenced jail services and to Nisqually for post sentenced jail services.

It is necessary for the City of Tacoma to assume the responsibility of coordinating jail services for Tacoma misdemeanants due to the City of Fife's notice of cancellation under the existing jail services agreement that was set to expire in 2022. Fife currently performs the key roles of booking and jail services coordination, the latter which will now have to be handled by a City department. Additionally, Fife subcontracts for sentenced inmate bed days with other corrections facilities including: SCORE (South Correctional Entity), Yakima County and the Nisqually Tribe Corrections Department.

ISSUES

The City successfully negotiated a 5-year jail services agreement with Pierce County. The agreement provides start-up payments so the Sheriff's Office can hire and train staff during the final six months of 2015 when the current contract was originally set to expire (December 31, 2015).

While the City will use the new jail services agreement with Pierce County for pre-sentenced inmates, it is more fiscally sustainable to incarcerate post-trial, sentenced inmates at the Nisqually Tribe facility for \$67.50 per inmate per day. The daily inmate rate also includes transportation services to and from the Tacoma Municipal Court, Pierce County and South Correctional Entity (SCORE), and coordination of hearings, appearances, release dates, and other administrative functions. This rate represents a decrease of 18.5% from the \$80.00 rate charged by the City of Fife.



ALTERNATIVES:

Keeping as many pre-sentenced inmates in the Pierce County jail as possible allows the court system to be most efficient; however, after they are sentenced, it is more economically sustainable to house inmates at the Nisqually Tribe facility. One alternative would be to keep the inmates in the Pierce County jail at a higher cost to the City. The City could also consider jail facilities in Yakima or Wapato Counties but did not initially pursue those opportunities due to convenience considerations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff presented four jail related recommendations to the Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee (PSHSE) at the Special Meeting on June 10th. The PSHSE approved the forwarding of the following action item to the full City Council for consideration:

Nisqually Tribe Agreement for Inmate Housing – The Nisqually Tribe and the City have negotiated an agreement to enter into a contract at \$67.50 per inmate per day for housing, transportation services, and coordination of hearings, appearances, release dates, and other administrative functions. This rate represents an 18.5% decrease from the rate of \$80 charged by the City of Fife under their related contract amendment. Jail facilities at Nisqually were inspected and reviewed by a team comprised of representatives of the City Manager’s Office, Tacoma Police Department and City Attorney’s Office.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Actively managing the flow of inmates by establishing a coordinator/contract manager position to ensure smooth operations under the proposed three agreements is critical. The coordination role previously provided by Fife Corrections was not meeting Tacoma Municipal Courts’ needs. Cutting out the “middle man” which currently results in a daily rate mark-up under the Fife contract will save substantial funding through bed location management efforts. These efforts will be coordinated by the Nisqually Tribe contract manager, with City Attorney Office oversight, until a full-time person is hired. The estimated cost of a contract manager to perform this function from September 1, 2015 for the remainder of the biennium is approximately \$160,000 which will be funded within current resources through daily bed rate savings.

The jail services contract negotiated with the Nisqually Tribe provides for a more local facility for the housing of sentenced inmates. At \$67.50 per day per inmate, the Nisqually contract rate is 18.5% less than the current Fife rate of \$80. A jail services contract has also been negotiated with Pierce County which provides for keeping as many non-sentenced inmates in Pierce County as possible. The proposed \$75.80 per day per inmate rate found in the new Pierce County agreement is 21.4% lower than the existing rate of \$92.00. The Nisqually and Pierce County contracts are expected to save an estimated \$400,000 net of additional costs during the 2015-2016 Biennium. However, expenditure patterns have shown increased incarceration rates which at present would bring the projection down to a surplus of about \$200,000 at this very early point in the biennium.