



TO: City Council Members
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Action to Strengthen Family Violence Prevention Services in Pierce County and Directing the City Manager to Negotiate a Revised Interlocal Agreement with Pierce County to Improve Coordination and Delivery of Domestic Violence Victim Services through an Integrated, Client-Centered Service Model
DATE: November 28, 2018

SUMMARY:

Resolution supporting action to strengthen family violence prevention services in Pierce County; and, directing the City Manager to negotiate a revised Interlocal Agreement with Pierce County to improve coordination and delivery of domestic violence victim services through an integrated, client-centered service model.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

This resolution best aligns with the strategic policy priorities to:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, Resolution Number 36485 established, through an Interlocal Agreement, a combined City of Tacoma and Pierce County domestic violence treatment and prevention center named The Crystal Judson Family Justice Center. The objectives of the Center are:

- Reduce the number of domestic violence cases that go unreported in Tacoma, Pierce County, and any other participating jurisdiction;
- Ensure domestic violence perpetrators are prosecuted;
- Coordinate and consolidate existing community resources to better serve victims of domestic violence; and
- Offer appropriate civil legal assistance to victims of domestic violence.

ISSUE:

As reported in the 2018 City of Tacoma Domestic Violence Needs Assessment, “Since 2005, the rate of domestic violence offenses reported to Tacoma Police Department is, on average, 2.5 times the statewide rate” (Berk, March 2018). There is a growing need for family violence prevention services in Tacoma, including services for an increasingly diverse client base, low or no-cost civil legal services, permanent affordable housing, and other essential services that ensure long-term safety, stability, treatment, and support for adults and children. Better coordination of victim services between The Crystal Judson Family Justice Center and



community providers, such as the YWCA Pierce County, will result in more effective victim support, safety, perpetrator accountability and violence prevention services for residents in Tacoma and throughout Pierce County. The YWCA Pierce County provides comprehensive services for survivors of domestic violence, including an emergency safe shelter, 24/7 crisis line, civil legal assistance, therapeutic children’s programs, counseling, support groups, housing, community education, and violence prevention.

Opportunities exist to strengthen victim services and family violence prevention services by improving data collection and information-sharing, strategically aligning funding priorities, ensuring best practices, jointly planning overall system design, and innovating to serve diverse clients inside Tacoma city limits.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose to adopt, reject, or modify this recommendation to renegotiate the Interlocal Agreement with Pierce County.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council direct the City Manager to negotiate a revised Interlocal Agreement with Pierce County in support of this purpose; provided, however, the City Manager shall consult with City Council during the negotiation process and may not execute said Interlocal Agreement without further authorization by the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this legislation, as the City intends to work within the current domestic violence funding. Fiscal impacts beyond 2019 will be determined during the Interlocal Agreement negotiation process.