



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Mark Lauzier, Asst. City Manager, City Manager's Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Resolution Authorizing a Yakima County Jail Services Agreement for Tacoma Misdemeanants – October 13, 2015**
DATE: September 29, 2015

SUMMARY:

A resolution to enter into an incarceration services agreement with Yakima County for Tacoma's misdemeanor inmates, effective November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016, with an automatic renewal upon the same terms and conditions for successive one-year renewal terms, for a maximum of five one-year renewal terms. Staff recommends that an agreement with Yakima County be entered into in order to address jail bed capacity that will be lost once the SCORE emergency agreement expires at the end of the current calendar year.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Members: Campbell, Lonergan and Woodards

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

This agreement for jail services with Yakima County best aligns with the strategic policy priority to: *encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.*

BACKGROUND:

In June, the City Council approved entering into the following incarceration services agreements:

1. **Pierce County** – The focus is on pre-trial incarceration services and assumes a stabilized population of approximately 75 inmates beginning in October. For the period beginning July 1st to September 30th, the agreement anticipated a capacity of 50 inmates.
2. **Nisqually Tribe** – The focus of this agreement is the provision of post-trial incarceration services and court transportation with a stabilized population assumption of approximately 75 inmates. The Nisqually Tribe was to grow into a capacity of 75 inmates as they hired staff and were expected to be ready in time for the expiration of the SCORE agreement.
3. **SCORE (South Correctional Entity)** – This is a 6-month emergency agreement (expiring 12/31/2015) which was to provide the additional jail bed capacity needs during the transitional phase while Pierce County and the Nisqually Tribe hired staff to accommodate Tacoma's workload.

The City of Fife previously handled the responsibility of coordinating jail services for Tacoma misdemeanants and juggled inmate housing needs among the three providers listed above as well as in their own jail along with jails in Yakima and Wapato counties (6 total facilities). This coordination role is now being provided internally via a jail contracts coordinator position that is housed in the City Attorney's Office.

The daily average inmate population for 2014 was 181 inmates. Prior to July, Yakima County was a key provider of jail services to the City of Tacoma via the City of Fife contract. In a letter dated July 15th, the



Director of the Yakima County Department of Corrections (YCDOC) expressed interest in the City of Tacoma continuing to house Tacoma inmates through a direct contract with the YCDOC (Attachment 1). Reports on their service reliability and responsiveness to the needs of the City from the Tacoma Municipal Courts and from the City of Fife were favorable. A team of representatives from the City Manager’s Office, City Attorney’s Office and Tacoma Municipal Courts toured three separate jail buildings managed by YCDOC. In addition to the operational tour, a detailed interview was conducted with the Director, his Chief of Operations, and his medical/mental health services team about the direction of the jail system and the level of care provided to inmates. The YCDOC has sufficient capacity to handle the Tacoma inmate overflow when we need jail beds. They also have a number of contracts in place with other entities that will make transportation services readily available (daily trips).

ISSUES:

The first two months of operations under the new contracts have gone smoothly. A number of issues, uncertainties, and future cost effectiveness can all be addressed by entering into a jail services agreement with Yakima County:

1. **SCORE Jail Beds Replacement:** With an average daily population total of about 180 inmates, having agreements with only Pierce County and the Nisqually Tribe is insufficient to meet ongoing demands. The table below summarizes the jail agreements transition plan assumptions. During the 6-month transition period (July – December, 2015), it was anticipated that Pierce County and Nisqually would hire staff and take on more beds while in the last quarter of the year, the City would transition away from SCORE before the agreement expired.

2015 – 2016 Tacoma Jail Bed Contracts Transition Plan			
Jail Facility	July to September	October to December	2016 and beyond
Pierce County	50	75	75
Nisqually Tribe	50	75	75
SCORE (South Correctional Entity)	80	30	0
Yakima County	n/a	begin transition	30
Approximate capacity needs (beds) =	180	180	180

Although the Pierce County jail contract provides for a jail beds expansion from 50 to 75 beds on October 1st, the 25 bed increase will not be sufficient to replace the approximately 25 - 50 inmate beds that have been provided by SCORE during the transition period. If the population stays at the current level, there will be a need for approximately 30 beds from another provider.

2. **Contingency/Flexibility for Future Growth** – As Tacoma’s population grows, it is anticipated that future needs will continue to increase. Having three contracts in place provides the needed capacity, flexibility, and room for growth. Once a contract is in place, the City has the opportunity to use it but does not have to use it. There is no minimum bed assumption.
3. **Cost Effectiveness/Value Opportunities:** The rates identified in the letter from Director Campbell and included in the contract provide a substantial financial incentive to the City. Although the City plans to keep 75 inmates processing through the court system at any given



time at the Pierce County jail, there is no minimum requirement for either the Nisqually Tribe agreement or the Yakima agreement. With the video visitation technology available at Yakima, the City should consider sending longer-term sentenced inmates to Yakima County in order to save money.

ALTERNATIVES:

The approximately 30 inmate beds needed could possibly be addressed within the Nisqually agreement but that could put the dormitory unit beyond its capacity and result in a safety/security issue. Some additional inmates above the anticipated 75 inmates could be housed at Pierce County but that agreement is subject to a maximum count that could result in a refusal to house situation. The Pierce County jail agreement is also less cost effective. Based on the reports of satisfactory performance in the delivery of jail incarceration services from Yakima County DOC as reported by Tacoma Municipal Courts and the City of Fife, Yakima is the best option for the reasons discussed above.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The jail services contract with the Nisqually Tribe provides for a more local facility for the housing of sentenced inmates at a cost of \$67.50 per day per inmate. The agreement with YCDOC would provide an improved service level due to greater medical services included in the base rate of \$54.75 per day per inmate. To the extent the City desires to use the YCDOC agreement, the City will be saving \$12.75 per day per inmate.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff presented the draft agreement at the September 24th Public Safety, Human Services and Education (PSHSE) Committee meeting. The PSHSE approved the forwarding of the item to the full City Council for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. July 15, 2015 Letter from Director Ed Campbell (YCDOC)
2. DRAFT Yakima County Jail Services Agreement

