



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 Emergency Agreement with the South Correctional Entity (SCORE) for Jail Services – June 16, 2015**
DATE: June 10, 2015

SUMMARY:

Resolution authorizing the execution of a standard emergency agreement with the South Correctional Entity (SCORE) for jail services from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, to provide ongoing services during the transition to a long-term agreement for jail services with Pierce County Corrections Division. 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 emergency 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 due to 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 and ensure Tacoma pre-sentenced misdemeanants can be booked and held at the Pierce County jail.

Recent developments regarding jail services agreements and operations are as follows:

1. **Fife Jail Services Contract Cancellation:** 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.
2. **Pierce County Sheriff's Office:** The City has a current jail services agreement with Pierce County that is set to expire on December 31, 2015 under which the Pierce County Sheriff's Office handles the City's booking and incarceration needs for City inmates. Beginning in March 2015, the Sheriff's Office suspended booking and incarceration services to Tacoma based upon staffing shortages as determined by the Sheriff's Office and/or Pierce County. The City began working with Pierce County to assist with jail population management in late February and early March. Negotiation of a long-term agreement with Pierce County needed to be expedited in order to ensure the jail would be reopened to the booking and incarceration of Tacoma inmates



under the existing agreement. These services became more critical once Fife withdrew services under the cancellation clause of their agreement.

ISSUES

The City of Fife has agreed to extend services through June 30, 2015 in order to allow the City to complete the negotiation of a new jail services agreement with Pierce County. 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).

The City of Tacoma is in need of interim inmate housing services for the transitional period beginning July 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 that provides interim services pursuant to an "Emergency Agreement" with SCORE. This is for back-up and transitional needs because the Pierce County jail needs to hire staff to handle additional Tacoma inmates and will need to pay overtime in order to grow into the 75 bed capacity. There are already approximately 50 Tacoma inmates at the SCORE facility. These Tacoma inmates are currently held in the jail as "Fife inmates" since they were booked and transported by Fife under a separate agreement with SCORE. As Pierce County increases its jail capacity, the inmate count at SCORE will be reduced over time in a coordinated fashion.

ALTERNATIVES:

Keeping as many pre-sentenced inmates in the Pierce County jail as possible allows the court system to be most efficient; however, until Pierce County can hire and train staff an emergency agreement is needed and SCORE currently provides these services. There are currently 54 City inmates currently housed at SCORE under the agreement with the City of Fife.

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:

- **SCORE Emergency Agreement for Inmate Housing** – SCORE has agreed to enter into the standard emergency contract with the City that would provide booking and incarceration services at the reduced contract cities rate of \$97 per day per inmate. This will address the booking and pre-trial jail services needs of the City after July 1, 2015 as the expansion of the bed count for Tacoma at the Pierce County Jail is undertaken.

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. 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 billing rates currently being charged include: SCORE (via Fife) is \$97 per day per inmate, plus an additional \$50 per day for each mental health inmate; Pierce County is currently charging \$92 per day for pre-trial incarceration; and, sentenced inmates are being billed at \$80 per day via Fife even though these



beds are subcontracted out at lower rates. It is difficult to project costs since there are many variables, including: crime and arrest rates; sentencing policies and local practices; transitioning from old to new contracts; and, jail diversion programs. All of these issues factor into total costs. For example, the practice of sentencing of prisoners by the Tacoma Municipal Court to specific facilities can and has greatly impacted overall costs so facility guidelines should be developed for sentenced, non-sentenced and special needs populations in cooperation with the City contract manager. SCORE currently provides services to Tacoma's special needs population.

The jail facility at SCORE was inspected and reviewed by a team comprised of representatives of the City Manager's Office, Tacoma Police Department and City Attorney's Office. Under a separate agreement with the Nisqually Tribe, Nisqually will be providing transportation services between their facility, the Pierce County jail, SCORE and the Tacoma Municipal Court when necessary.

