

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Clark County Council

DATE: October 18th, 2022

REQUESTED ACTION:

Consideration of a Resolution endorsing establishment of a regional Criminal Justice Training Center in Clark County.

Consent Hearing County Manager

BACKGROUND

Currently, all new Sheriff's Office deputies must attend Basic Law Enforcement Academy training at the state's Criminal Justice Training Center near Seattle. This requires a roughly five-month commitment away from home, which is a substantial challenge for many applicants. Additionally, the waitlist to attend the academy is historically long, delaying an applicant's ability to begin their new position and leading to considerable uncertainty for the applicant and the Sheriff's Office.

In July, 2022, Governor Inslee and Senator Lovick announced plans to pursue legislation to create regional police academies across Washington state, including in the Vancouver area. The intent is to increase training capacity and to attract quality people that otherwise cannot commit to a five-month stay at the current CJTC training center locations near Seattle and Spokane.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed Resolution expresses support for a regional CJTC facility in Clark County, stating that such a facility will better serve our region, remove barriers for applicants that cannot stay away from home for five months, and expand training capacity for law enforcement statewide.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None. The operation of the regional academy would be performed by the CJTC.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

N/A

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
X		Action falls within existing budget capacity.
		Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
		Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be

referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

DISTRIBUTION:

Board staff will post all staff reports to The Grid. <http://www.clark.wa.gov/thegrid/>

LH
Lindsey Hueer
Senior Policy Analyst

Kathleen Otto
County Manager

Primary Staff Contract Name and Extension: Lindsey Shafar, x4157

APPROVED: Karen Dill Barbera
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: Oct. 18, 2022

SR# 202-22



APPROVED: _____
Kathleen Otto, County Manager

DATE: _____

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RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 10-10

A RESOLUTION expressing the County Council’s support for a Criminal Justice Training Commission (“CJTC”) expansion to add a regional law enforcement training center in Clark County.

WHEREAS, law enforcement and criminal justice professionals are essential to ensuring public safety; and

WHEREAS, for the past several years, law enforcement agencies across Washington state and the nation have experienced an increase in law enforcement resignations, retirements, and a decrease in applications and new hires; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Sheriff’s Office consistently has had unfilled law enforcement positions despite best recruitment efforts;

WHEREAS, challenges with recruitment and retention are likely to persist for the foreseeable future due to the large percentage of Clark County Sheriff’s Office staff that will soon become eligible for retirement; and

WHEREAS, agencies across southwest Washington need to recruit new law enforcement professionals, and new law enforcement professionals all must receive training at the CJTC’s Basic Law Enforcement Academy (“BLEA”); and

WHEREAS, in July 2022, Governor Jay Inslee announced his work with Sen. John Lovick to pursue legislative approval to create regional police training academies across Washington state in order to attract quality people who can commute to and from an academy every day and who will then serve their own communities upon graduation; and

24 WHEREAS, part of Governor Inslee and Sen. Lovick’s vision is to create a
25 regional public safety training academy in southwest Washington, which will strongly
26 enhance the Clark County Sheriff’s Office’s ability to recruit and retain future law
27 enforcement officers from the greater southwest Washington area; and

28 WHEREAS, removing the barrier for new applicants of living five months away
29 from their families in order to attend the BLEA increases opportunities for those who
30 may not be able to spend that amount of time away from home; and

31 WHEREAS, a local regional public safety academy improves community
32 engagement and outreach efforts by increasing equitable access to all; and

33 WHEREAS, as southwest Washington communities continue to grow and our
34 population density increases, a long-term investment from the State of Washington
35 ensures a strong CJTC relationship; and

36 WHEREAS, a southwest Washington CJTC training facility will allow for all
37 local law enforcement agencies to provide state-mandated training, such as I-940
38 requirements, and de-escalation training; and

39 WHERAS, a southwest Washington contemporary regional training facility gives
40 the public a strong vision of investment in community safety, and of careers for those
41 who choose a life of service to others.

42

43 NOW, THEREFORE,

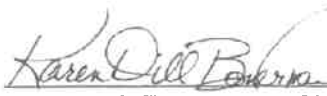
44 BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED BY THE CLARK COUNTY

45 COUNCIL, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

46 The Clark County Council expresses its full and complete support for
47 establishment of a Criminal Justice Training Commission regional police training campus
48 in Clark County.

49
50 ADOPTED on this 18th day of OCT., 2022.


51
52 Attest:
53 
54 _____
55 Clerk to the Council

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Karen Dill Bowerman, Chair

57
58 Approved as to Form Only:
59 ANTHONY GOLIK
60 Prosecuting Attorney

Temple Lentz, Councilor

61
62 By: 
63 _____
64 Leslie Lopez,
65 Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Julie Olson, Councilor

Gary Medvigy, Councilor

Richard Rylander, Councilor



[DATE]

Governor Jay Inslee
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Senator John Lovick
PO Box 40444
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee and Senator Lovick:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Clark County Council's recently adopted Resolution in full support of the legislative proposal to create regional police academies, including in southwest Washington. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to addressing the current barriers to ensure our ability to equitably recruit and train future law enforcement officers across Washington state. We fully agree with you that it is beneficial to attract quality people within a 50-mile radius who can commute to and from a training academy every day, who will then serve their own communities upon graduation. It is highly valuable to remove the barrier for new applicants to live five-months away from their families in order to attend the required Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).

The County Council further fully supports the proposal to include southwest Washington as one of the proposed locations for a regional academy. Our communities in Clark County and throughout southwest Washington continue to grow, while simultaneously we are facing a large percentage of our staff eligible for retirement in the coming few years. These pressures will only increase the need for new law enforcement officers that will require BLEA training.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you, the CJTC, our legislative delegation, and community stakeholders to develop plans for a suitable facility location. We know that our cooperation and partnership in establishing a local regional training academy will enhance the law enforcement profession, increase inclusion, and improve safety for all residents of Washington state.

Sincerely,

Karen Dill Bowerman, Chair

Temple Lentz, District 1

Julie Olson, District 2

Gary Medvigy, District 4

Richard Rylander, District 5

cc:

Senator Annette Cleveland:	PO Box 40444, Olympia, WA, 98504
Senator Ann Rivers:	PO Box 40444, Olympia, WA, 98504
Senator Lynda Wilson:	PO Box 40444, Olympia, WA, 98504
Rep. Paul Harris:	PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA, 98504
Rep. Larry Hoff:	PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA, 98504
Rep. Vicki Kraft:	PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA, 98504
Rep. Monica Stonier:	PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA, 98504
Rep. Brandon Vick:	PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA, 98504
Rep. Sharon Wylie:	PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA, 98504