

Clark County Council
Law and Justice
Resolution No. 2024-10-09

1
2
3
4
5 A RESOLUTION, relating to the potential impacts to the Law and Justice system of
6 adding additional Vancouver Police Officers and/or Sheriff's Deputies.

7 WHEREAS, Public Safety is one of the top priorities in the community; and

8 WHEREAS, the Law and Justice system includes Sheriff's Office, Police Departments,
9 Superior Court, District Court, Juvenile Court, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defense, Clerks
10 Office and the Clark County Jail; and

11 WHEREAS, Clark County is responsible for providing all countywide Law and Justice
12 services which include Superior Court, District Court, Juvenile Court, Prosecuting Attorney,
13 Public Defense, Clerks Office, and Clark County Jail; and

14 WHEREAS, Law and Justice countywide services costs approximately \$89.5M with
15 Clark County also covering 100% of the cost for felonies for all jurisdictions, which is currently
16 not sustainable; and

17 WHEREAS, unlike other large cities with their own municipal court, Clark County
18 District Court serves as the municipal court for the City of Vancouver; and

19 WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver has a ballot measure, Proposition 4, before the voters
20 this November; and

21 WHEREAS, if Proposition 4 is approved, the City of Vancouver will add an additional
22 80 Law Enforcement Officers, form a traffic enforcement camera program, and other programs
23 and/or personnel; and

24 WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has expressed a desire to add additional law
25 enforcement personnel in the unincorporated areas; and

26 WHEREAS, the County is reviewing the potential impacts of increasing police officers
27 and sheriff deputies and programs such as traffic cameras, to ensure the Law and Justice system
28 has capacity to respond accordingly and not be a hinder to the system; and

29 WHEREAS, while the Law and Justice system has not seen this large of an increase,
30 including an increase projected over a few years; it is concluded that the current number of
31 employees, attorneys, judges, etc. that directly supports to the Law and Justice system will need
32 to increase; and

33 WHEREAS, the Law and Justice partners understand the importance of supporting the
34 system in its entirety and have been working collaboratively to identify potential impacts of
35 additional law enforcement personnel and programs to their specific operations; and

1 WHEREAS, the Law and Justice partners initial review would need to see an initial
2 increase of approximately 13% with an annual increase of 5.5% thereafter, which does not
3 include capital and one-time start-up costs. Impacts will be refined as additional law enforcement
4 personnel and programs are implemented.

5 BE IT ORDERED, RESOLVED, AND DECREED BY THE CLARK COUNTY
6 COUNCIL, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS

7 Clark County is committed to continuing to support the Law and Justice system. With
8 that said, Clark County is obligated to be transparent with the community of the significant
9 financial impacts of increasing law enforcement personnel and programs as currently proposed in
10 Proposition 4 as well as potential additional Sheriff Office personnel. The Law and Justice
11 system is currently not financially sustainable and without additional funding from the taxpayers
12 and cities, the Law and Justice system would fail; resulting in limited positive impact that is
13 desired by increased law enforcement personnel and programs.

14
15 ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Clark County Council this 18th day of October 2024.


16 COUNTY COUNCIL
17 CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
18

19 Attest:

20
21 
22 Clerk to the Council

23
24 By: 
25 Gary Medvigy, Chair

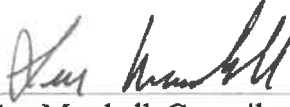
26 Approved as to Form Only:
27 ANTHONY F. GOLIK
28 Prosecuting Attorney

29 By: 
30 Glen Yung, Councilor

31 By: 

32 By: 
33 Michelle Belkot, Councilor

34 By: 
35 Karen Dill Bowerman, Councilor

36 By: 
37 Sue Marshall, Councilor
38

