

2014 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
98	1	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Police: Do not dedicate three police officers exclusively to assist Park Rangers.

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Budget Proviso: Yes

Councilmembers: Burgess; Harrell; O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Peter Harris

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

**Budget Action description:**

This green sheet would impose the following budget proviso:

“None of the money appropriated in the 2014 budget for the Police Department may be spent for officers dedicated exclusively to the assistance of Park Rangers.”

The proposed budget narrative says the Police Department will assign three police officers exclusively to assist Park Rangers in Downtown parks. The Police Department reports that Park Rangers called for police assistance 55 times between 1/1/12 and 10/27/13, or an average of once every 12 days. This level of assistance does not warrant the full dedication of three officers to this purpose. If Park Rangers have difficulty obtaining prompt police assistance, a better course would be for the Parks & Recreation Department and the Police Department to develop procedures to address this difficulty. This will avoid the need to transfer three officers from Patrol for this purpose.

The apparent goal of dedicating three officers to assist Park Rangers is to increase police presence in Downtown parks. An alternative would be (1) for the West Precinct Captain to temporarily assign officers to patrol parks at the times when most problems occur, (2) to identify and intervene with the specific individuals whose repeated criminal behavior causes the most problems in Downtown parks, with clear and specific instructions to officers for such interventions, and (3) to monitor the effectiveness of such patrols and interventions and make adjustments accordingly.