

**2015 - 2016 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent**

**Ready for Notebook**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
75	2	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Statement of Legislative Intent for the Domestic Violence Support Center (DVRC)

**Councilmembers:** Clark; Godden; Harrell

**Staff Analyst:** Mark Baird; Jennifer Samuels

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

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests that the Human Services Department (HSD), in coordination with the Seattle Police Department (SPD), and Law Department (LAW), update the City Council on the implementation of its Domestic Violence Response Center (DVRC) strategic plan and identify investments for 2015 and 2016.

**Background**

Entities from the City of Seattle and King County who are involved with various aspects of domestic violence response came together to explore options for a center to help victims. These law enforcement, City Attorney’s Office, Prosecutor’s Office, and advocate partners formed a leadership team and with help of the Seattle Police Foundation commissioned a feasibility study. From there, the team began to construct a strategic plan for making a resource center a reality.

The Seattle Domestic Violence Response Center (DVRC) Leadership Team proposes to finalize a strategic planning process, and develop an implementation plan for a DVRC in Seattle using a “family justice center 2.0” approach. This approach involves the co-location of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals who work together to provide coordinated services to victims of family violence. The basic partners include police officers, prosecutors, civil legal service providers, and community-based advocates. The concept is to provide one location where victims can go to talk to an advocate, plan for their safety, communicate with a police officer, meet with a prosecutor, get medical assistance, and receive information on things like shelter and

transportation. It will involve creative forms of collaboration and capacity building that moves beyond a major reliance on physical co-location. A two-pronged approach would include:

- (1) Building upon the “initial co-location” scenario proposed in the feasibility analysis (focusing on co-locating various components of the criminal-legal system -- including County and City programs that intersect around Seattle DV cases) and
- (2) Increasing the capacity of related programs and services such as mobile or community-based domestic violence advocacy services. These advocates go to victims rather than have victims come to a location for advocacy and help with services.

A key component of the project is to realize greater overall capacity to serve victims and families, including utilization of advocates at multiple locations based on the needs of the victim. The DVRC would also explore the use of technology, such as secure video conferencing, to leverage existing resources and communicate with victims who are unable to visit the DVRC in person and for victims at the DVRC to communicate with offsite partners.

The City Council requests that HSD take a lead role in developing an inter-departmental response to Council and submit two written summaries detailing progress toward implementing the DVRC strategic plan to the City Council at a full Council Briefing. The first summary is due no later than March 30, 2015. The second summary is due no later than August 31, 2015. This report should include details of the planned investment by HSD, SPD, and LAW for the DVRC.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Council Briefing

**Date Due to Council:** No later than March 30, 2015 and August 31, 2015