



## Public Safety Committee Agenda

Councilmembers: Bill Boyce – Les Thomas – Toni Troutner, Chair  
Chief Ken Thomas

**January 9, 2018**  
**4:30 p.m.**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.	Call to order		Chair Troutner	1	
2.	Roll Call		Chair Troutner	1	
3.	Changes to the Agenda		Chair Troutner	1	
4.	Approval of meeting minutes dated October 10, 2017	YES	Chair Troutner	1	1
5.	Police and Criminal Justice Ballot Measure - Resolution – Information Only	NO	Derek Matheson	20	5
6.	Chief's Report – Information Only	NO	Chief Ken Thomas	10	17

Unless otherwise noted, the Public Safety Committee meets at 4:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in Kent City Hall, Council Chambers East, 220 Fourth Ave S, Kent, WA 98032.

For additional information please contact Jennifer Hays at 253-856-5705 or via email at [jhays@kentwa.gov](mailto:jhays@kentwa.gov).

**Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the City Clerk's Office at 253-856-5725 in advance. For TDD relay service call Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-833-6388.**

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Approval Pending

**Date:** October 10, 2017  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Chambers East  
**Attending:** Dana Ralph, Les Thomas, and Jim Berrios, Chair

**Agenda:**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Changes to the Agenda**

The 2017 SAMHSA Drug Free Communities Grant – Recommend was added to the agenda as item #6.

4. **Approval of Minutes dated September 12, 2017.**

**L. Thomas moved to approve the Public Safety Committee minutes dated September 12, 2017. D. Ralph seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

5. **Yakima County Inmate Housing ILA – Recommend.**

Chief Thomas asked members to update an interlocal agreement (ILA) between Yakima County and the City to transport the overflow of inmates for the next five years. The request is for purposes of population management.

Benefits to update the ILA are:

- The cost is \$50 a day, per inmate,
- there are no booking fees or additional costs to transport and house an inmate, and
- Kent jail has limited female inmate capacities.

Typically, inmates serving a longer sentence (no longer than 364 days) are transported to Yakima. Currently, there are 17 inmates serving time in Yakima. This agreement will renew annually through December 31, 2022 unless there is a written notification from one party to the other to terminate the contract at the end of the current calendar year.

**D. Ralph moved to recommend Council authorize the Mayor to sign an interlocal agreement with Yakima County for the purpose of housing inmates as the City may need, for 2018, subject to final terms and conditions acceptable to the city attorney and police chief. L. Thomas seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Approval Pending

**6. 2017 SAMHSA Drug Free Communities Grant – Recommend.**

Research and Development Analyst Sara Wood asked members to accept the year nine drug free communities programs grant. Grant funds will be used for drug and alcohol prevention activities identified by the Kent Drug Free Coalition, Kent Police youth board projects, including the Game of Life youth conference among other drug and alcohol prevention activities.

It was noted that at the end of year ten, this grant will no longer be available.

**L. Thomas moved to recommend Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Drug Free Communities Support Program Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the amount of \$125,000, amend the budget, and authorize expenditure of the grant funds in accordance with the grant's terms and conditions. D. Ralph seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

**7. Chief's Report – Information Only**

Chief's supplied information on a variety of topics, they are:

- *New Human Traffic Victim Advocate:* Ms. Wood worked with Kent Youth and Family Services to apply for a one-year grant to hire a victim advocate, Kyra Doubek, to work with city detectives to aid in John stings. First time offenders are levied \$1000 as an assessment fee. Additionally, if the suspect is the registered owner of the car driven to the meeting location that car is impounded for a \$500 levy. Monies from both levies are split 50/50: 50 percent goes towards future enforcement while the other 50 percent goes towards supporting victims' programs. So far, Ms. Doubek has exceeded all expectations in regards to working with victims of trafficking.
- *Volunteer Chaplain Program:* Jay Abram is the new volunteer chaplain at Kent Corrections Facility. He has previously assisted at the facility volunteering to provide services to inmates. Chair Berrios invited chaplains to meet full Council at an upcoming meeting.
- *Crime Update:* although the City remains the lowest in King County when it comes to violent crimes, the City has seen a spike in car thefts and property break-ins compared to 2015-2016 numbers.
- *Drone Use Update:* the use of a drone has been in effect for about the last six months. The drone has been used for one SWAT call on the East Hill for an officer involved shooting as well as for a traffic collision.
- *Upcoming Community Meetings:*
  - Panther Lake Elementary School, October 11 at 7pm. Assistant Chief Hemmen will have a presentation on camera pods posted in high crime areas. Other Commanders will provide crime updates to various sectors around the City.

Approval Pending

- Police Diversity Task Force: East Hill Fire Training Center on Wednesday, October 18. Mark Larsen from the King County Prosecutors Office will be there to discuss inquests that occur after officer involved shootings.
- *Coffee with the Chief*: the next event is 8am Wednesday, October 25 at the Starbucks located on 4th Ave South and Meeker Street.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m. by J. Berrios.



Jennifer Hays  
Public Safety Committee Secretary

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**OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

Tom Brubaker, City Attorney

Phone: 253-856-5770

Fax: 253-856-6770

Address: 220 Fourth Avenue S.

Kent, WA. 98032-5895

**DATE:** January 9, 2018  
**TO:** Public Safety Committee  
**FROM:** Derek Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer  
**SUBJECT: Police and Criminal Justice Ballot Measure-Resolution – Information Only**

<b>MOTION: INFORMATION ONLY</b>
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**SUMMARY:** This Resolution begins the process to submit to the qualified voters in the city of Kent a ballot proposition, "Proposition A," to authorize the city to raise the existing six percent utility tax on the gross revenues of companies operating in Kent that provide electricity, manufactured and natural gas, telephone, and cable television services by two percent to a total utility tax on these companies of eight percent. The purpose for this utility tax increase is to increase staffing and provide equipment for police and criminal justice services in Kent in order to fund these critical services in our community. All of the two percent increases in utility tax revenues will be dedicated solely for police and criminal justice purposes.

State law requires that the voters must approve any utility tax increase on these companies that exceeds six percent.

Staff will coordinate a special Public Safety Committee meeting this month, likely January 30, to take action on this proposed resolution and send it to the full Council. At that special committee meeting, staff will finalize and present the Mayor's recommended allocation of funds to be received from the increase, if approved. Administration will also begin recruitment of the pro and con committees, as required by law and work on a communication plan to present to the committee.

King County Department of Elections must receive the resolution calling for the ballot measure, the explanatory statement, and the pro and con committee appointments at least 60 days before the special election, which would be no later than Friday, February 23, 2018.

**Exhibits:** Draft Resolution, Draft Explanatory Statement

**Budget Impact:** Finance Department estimates approximately \$4.8 million in additional revenue

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**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the city of Kent, Washington, providing for the submission to the city's qualified electors at an election to be held on April 24, 2018, of a proposition authorizing the city to increase the existing utility tax by two percent (2%) for a total utility tax of eight percent (8%) on the total gross income derived from revenues of companies operating in Kent that provide electricity, manufactured and natural gas, telephone, and cable television services in order to fund additional staff and support exclusively for police and criminal justice in the city of Kent.

**RECITALS**

A. Kent has experienced dramatic growth in its recent past. The city now encompasses approximately thirty-five square miles in area, and its population is the sixth largest in Washington State. With this growth has come pressure on the city's general fund as it strives to continue to provide all city services to this dramatically increased population and service area. A number of factors have contributed to issues with continued funding of these services, including a property tax limitation of one percent per year, which causes a continuing structural revenue shortfall, because the one percent cap generally runs one to two percent below the annual inflation rate. Also, when the state legislature enacted its Streamlined Sales Tax legislation, the city, according to the latest study, has incurred an annual loss of expected sales tax revenue of approximately \$12.7 million per year.

B. Of all city services, police and criminal justice services are primary to its citizens. The city has strived to maintain its level of delivery for these services, but staffing levels are challenged as the city grapples with its recent growth. Police officers are working overtime, and more officers are needed to adequately address criminal justice demands. Increasing its current active duty officers from approximately 160 officers to approximately 180 officers would significantly improve the city's ability to deliver these services. The city needs these officers to maintain a level and quality that the public needs and deserves.

C. Police officers are a significant part of the city's public safety network, but adding additional officers will also impact service and staffing levels in police support services, the city's municipal court, its municipal jail, and also its prosecution and public defense staffing. As a result, if this additional funding becomes available, some part of that funding will also be dedicated to these other critical branches of the city's police and criminal justice network.

D. The Kent City Council finds that it is in the public interest and is imperative to increase the funding level of the Kent Police Department and related criminal justice network to provide fully-staffed police and related criminal justice services. Hiring additional police staff, developing and improving our policing programs, purchasing necessary police equipment, and supporting our court, jail and related criminal justice services will provide for the general health, safety, and welfare of our community.

E. As authorized by law, the city currently imposes a six percent (6%) utility tax on the total gross income derived from revenues of companies operating in Kent that provide electricity, manufactured and natural gas, telephone, and cable television services. Under state law, a

majority of the voters in the city may vote on a proposition to raise the utility tax over that six percent amount.

F. In order to maintain and improve its police and criminal justice operations at a service level that the citizens of the City deserve and expect, the Kent City Council has determined to ask the voters to increase the six percent utility tax by two percent, resulting in a total utility tax of eight percent (8%) on the total gross income derived from revenues of companies operating in Kent that provide electricity, manufactured and natural gas, telephone, and cable television services.

G. These conditions require the holding of an election in the City.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

### **RESOLUTION**

**SECTION 1.** *Findings.* The City Council hereby adopts the foregoing Recitals as its findings and determines that it is in the best interests of the residents of the City to provide additional funds to pay costs of improving its police and criminal justice services.

**SECTION 2.** *Increased Tax on Electricity, Manufactured and Natural Gas, Telephone, and Cable Television Companies.* The Kent City Council finds and declares that, in order to preserve and protect the health, safety, and welfare, it is in the best interest of the City to submit to the qualified electors of the city for their approval or rejection at the special election to be held on April 24, 2018, a proposition authorizing an increase from six percent (6%) to eight percent (8%) on the total gross income derived from revenues of companies providing electricity, manufactured and natural gas, telephone, and cable television services, to

be collected beginning July 1, 2018, or as soon thereafter as allowed by law, and every calendar year after that. The King County Department of Elections, as the *ex officio* supervisor of elections in King County, Washington, is requested to call and conduct this election in the city and to submit the proposition in the form substantially presented below to the city's electors on that date. Upon the voters' approval of this proposition, the city may use the proceeds of the utility tax increase to hire additional police officers and other criminal justice personnel and equipment.

**SECTION 3. Ballot Proposition.** The City Clerk is authorized and directed to certify the following proposition to the King County Records and Elections Division, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in King County, Washington, in substantially the following form:

CITY OF KENT  
PROPOSITION A

2% UTILITY TAX INCREASE FOR  
POLICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

The Kent City Council adopted Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_, asking voters to consider approving additional revenue for police and criminal justice staffing and equipment purposes. If approved, Proposition A would authorize the city to levy a 2% utility tax increase, from 6% to 8%, on the total gross income derived from revenues of companies providing electricity, manufactured and natural gas, telephone, and cable television services in the city, to the extent allowed by law, for the sole purpose of maintaining and enhancing police and criminal justice services in Kent.

Should this proposition be:

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTED \_\_\_\_\_

***SECTION 4. Changes.*** The Mayor and City Attorney may make minor adjustments to the wording of this proposition as may be recommended by the King County Department of Elections or the Office of the King County Prosecuting Attorney, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this ordinance as approved by the City Council.

***SECTION 5. Notice Relating to Ballot Proposition.*** For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates the City Clerk.

***SECTION 6. Request for Local Voter's Pamphlet.*** The city requests that the King County Department of Elections include the city's ballot measure, explanatory statement, pro and con statements and rebuttals, and all other appropriate materials in the local voter's pamphlet, if one is already planned. If the County does not intend to publish a local voter's pamphlet for the April 24 special election, the city asks that one be published for this ballot measure. In either event, the city understands and acknowledges that it is responsible to pay the cost of publication and delivery.

***SECTION 7. Effective Date.*** This resolution will take effect immediately upon passage, as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, at a regular open public meeting held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2018.

CONCURRED in by the Mayor of the City of Kent this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2018.

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DANA RALPH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
KIMBERLEY A. KOMOTO, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
TOM BRUBAKER, CITY ATTORNEY

## CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Kent, Washington, and keeper of the records of the City Council, DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

1. That the attached Resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the City, as adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on February \_\_\_\_, 2018, and duly recorded in my office.

2. That this meeting was duly convened and held in all respects in accordance with law, and to the extent required by law, due and proper notice of the meeting was given; that a quorum of the City Council was present throughout the meeting; that a legally sufficient number of members of the City Council voted in the proper manner to adopt the Resolution; that all other requirements and proceedings incident to the proper adoption or passage of the Resolution have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed; and that I am authorized to execute this certificate.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of February, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly A. Komoto, City Clerk

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**Explanatory Statement:**

The city currently imposes a 6% utility tax on private electricity, gas, telephone, and cable television utility services. If approved by the city's voters, this proposition increases that tax by 2%, raising the total utility tax on these services to 8%. The city's police and criminal justice services need additional staffing and equipment to meet the needs of Kent, a city that in the recent past has grown to cover over 35 square miles and has become Washington's sixth largest city. This 2% utility tax increase, which will be devoted solely to police and criminal justice services, will allow the city to add police officers to patrol city streets, increase the total police department staffing to approximately 180 officers, and will support staffing and equipment needs for our municipal jail and municipal court. Impacts from growth, from gang violence, and from the impacts of urbanization in our community make it necessary to grow our police and criminal justice departments. The city's general fund cannot afford the additional cost to do so without this utility tax increase. The Kent City Council has determined that, in order to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, it is in the best interest of the city to seek voter approval of this 2% utility tax increase for the sole purpose of maintaining and enhancing police and criminal justice services in Kent.

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Ken Thomas, Chief of Police

Phone: 253-856-5800

Fax: 253-856-6802

Address: 220 Fourth Avenue S.

Kent, WA. 98032-5895

**DATE:** January 9, 2018  
**TO:** Public Safety Committee  
**FROM:** Chief Thomas  
**SUBJECT: Chief's Report – Information Only**

**MOTION: Information Only**

**SUMMARY:** Chief Thomas' report will include a variety of items.

**EXHIBITS:** n/a

**BUDGET IMPACTS:** n/a

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