

RESOLUTION R-5530

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE RADAR NAVIGATOR CITIES TO CREATE AN ENTITY THAT WOULD MERGE THE RADAR NAVIGATOR PROGRAM AND KIRKLAND'S COMMUNITY RESPONDER PROGRAM INTO A REGIONAL MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland has been committed to finding
2 ways to reduce use of force and improve outcomes and services to
3 community members experiencing crisis through a variety of programs
4 over the years; and
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6 WHEREAS, City of Kirkland has been a member of the North
7 Sound RADAR Navigators, a grant-funded regional "co-response" pilot
8 program that pairs a contracted Mental Health Professional (MHP) with
9 law enforcement to provide crisis de-escalation, reduce use of force,
10 and improve outcomes for community members in behavioral health
11 crisis since May 2019; and
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13 WHEREAS, since joining the RADAR Navigator Program with the
14 Cities of Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline, Kirkland has
15 benefitted from having a contracted MHP in co-response with law
16 enforcement one to two shifts per week; and
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18 WHEREAS, on August 4, 2020, the City Council adopted
19 Resolution R-5434 affirming that Black lives matter and approving the
20 framework for Kirkland to become a safe, inclusive, and welcoming
21 community through actions to improve the safety and respect of Black
22 people in Kirkland and end structural racism by partnering with those
23 most affected; and
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25 WHEREAS, one of the accountability strategies outlined in R-
26 5434 directed the City Manager to "review national best practices for
27 alternatives to police for serving those experiencing homelessness,
28 behavioral health issues, drug addiction and other community
29 challenges" and identify possible changes to City policies; and
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31 WHEREAS, the City contracted with Beyond Force to review
32 national best practices for alternatives to police response, evaluate
33 Kirkland's needs, and propose a framework for the City's Community
34 Responder Program; and
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36 WHEREAS, to operationalize the commitments made under R-
37 5434, and increase availability of mental and behavioral health
38 resources, and the City Council created the Community Safety Initiative
39 as the centerpiece of the 2021-2022 budget; and
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41 WHEREAS, the 2021-2022 Community Safety Initiative created
42 and funded four new "community responder" positions with the stated
43 goal of having enough "community responders" to respond to service

44 calls with an underlying behavioral health, substance abuse, or
45 developmental disability component 24 hours per day, 7 days a week,
46 365 days per year; and
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48 WHEREAS, on May 18, 2021, the City Council received the review
49 of national best practices for alternatives to police response and a
50 recommended framework for the Community Responder Program and
51 upon consideration, directed the City Manager to continue the City's
52 participation in the RADAR Navigator Program and in parallel, establish
53 the City's own Community Responder Program by hiring community
54 responders as full-time employees of the City; and
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56 WHEREAS, on September 7, 2021, the City Council further
57 expanded the Community Responder Program through a series of
58 actions to better enhance recruitment efforts and further achieve the
59 goal of 24/7 coverage; and
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61 WHEREAS, in its current form, the City's Community Responder
62 Program has budget and position authority for eleven staff, including
63 one Program Manager, one Lead, four Community Responders
64 partnered with five EMT-Firefighters, totaling a \$1.25 million annual
65 investment but due to the economic and labor uncertainty has only hired
66 the Lead position; and
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68 WHEREAS, on February 6, 2022, the RADAR Navigator Cities
69 approached the City of Kirkland with a proposal to expand RADAR
70 Navigators from a grant-funded pilot program to a more sustainable
71 model with increased staffing levels and enhanced levels of service
72 through General Fund contributions from each member City; and
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74 WHEREAS, on March 7, 2022, the Kirkland City Manager
75 proposed to the RADAR Navigator cities and police chiefs that instead
76 of investing in two separate programs, the parties explore the benefits
77 of merging the RADAR Navigator program and Kirkland's Community
78 Responder program into a consolidated regional mobile crisis response
79 entity; and
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81 WHEREAS, all five RADAR Navigator cities supported exploration
82 of a regional mobile crisis response entity recognizing that potential
83 benefits of a merged program include achieving expanded crisis
84 response coverage in all cities and avoiding competition through
85 consolidated staffing; the opportunity to elevate the governance
86 structure of the program from police chiefs to city managers and/or
87 elected officials of the member cities; and alignment with regional
88 efforts to site a crisis stabilization clinic in North King County, among
89 others; and
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91 WHEREAS, on April 5, 2022, the City Council considered the
92 proposal to merge the RADAR Navigator and Community Responder
93 Programs into a consolidated regional mobile crisis response program,
94 managed by a new regional entity, and directed the City Manager to
95 prepare a resolution stating the Council's interest in such a partnership,
96 and key interests for the City Manager to bear in mind for negotiating
97 an interlocal agreement.
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99 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City
100 of Kirkland as follows:

101 Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed
102 to negotiate an interlocal agreement with the cities of Shoreline,
103 Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Bothell to form a new regional entity to
104 provide a consolidated and standardized mobile crisis response program
105 that achieves the following goals:
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- 107 a. Provides alternatives to police as the primary response to
108 community members in crisis and improve outcomes for those
109 community members by deploying mental health professionals
110 or similarly certified staff as crisis responders;
- 111 b. The primary responders to community members in crisis are the
112 regional entity's mental health professionals, where appropriate;
- 113 c. The regional entity advocates for and supports the formation of
114 a regional crisis stabilization facility in North King County; and
- 115 d. The regional entity supports and advises dispatch agencies over
116 time as they develop and adopt dispatch protocols for mobile
117 crisis responders that utilize both 911 and 988 centers of
118 dispatch.

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120 Section 2. The City Manager is further directed to negotiate
121 specific terms of an interlocal agreement with partner cities that meet
122 the following operational interests of the City of Kirkland:


- 123 a. The regional entity is governed by a board of city managers and
124 administrators, elected officials, or some combination of
125 appointed and elected officials from each member city and may
126 include community members with lived experience in crisis care
127 and/or with behavioral health systems;
- 128 b. The regional entity collaborates with community members with
129 lived experience in the crisis care and/or behavioral health
130 systems;
- 131 c. The regional entity builds towards achieving behavioral health
132 professionals available to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a
133 week, 365 days per year;
- 134 d. The regional entity is funded through contributions from all
135 member cities based on an agreed upon methodology and a
136 formal budgeting process that includes review and approval by
137 member cities.
- 138 e. The regional entity governance structure includes a voting
139 system that includes weighted voting, or inclusion of veto
140 powers, to reflect the relative proportion of member cities'
141 contributions;
- 142 f. The regional entity has one fiscal and administrative agent, a
143 role City of Kirkland can fill;
- 144 g. The regional entity will structure shifts and caseload in a way
145 that maintains appropriate response times for Kirkland, such as
146 certain units being based in close proximity to Kirkland;
- 147 h. Member cities in the regional entity agree to develop and adopt
148 shared mobile crisis response dispatch plans and protocols that
149 are integrated between both 911 and the upcoming 988 centers
150 and that align with the goals outlined in Section 1 above; and
- 151 i. The regional entity shall cooperate and collaborate with Mobile
152 Integrated Health programs funded by the King County Medic

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- One Levy and explore potential future partnerships to achieve more efficient and effective outcomes for both programs; and
- j. The regional interlocal agreement includes a process for other cities to join based on agreed upon financial commitments, shared understanding of program goals, and capacity to scale the service area without compromising quality of care.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 19th day of April, 2022.

Signed in authentication thereof this 19th day of April, 2022.



Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:



Kathi Anderson, City Clerk