

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
2 finding ways to reduce use of force and improve outcomes and
3 services to community members experiencing crisis through a
4 variety of programs 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"
8 pilot program that pairs a contracted Mental Health Professional
9 (MHP) with law enforcement to provide crisis de-escalation,
10 reduce use of force, and improve outcomes for community
11 members in behavioral health crisis since May 2019; and
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13 WHEREAS, since joining the RADAR Navigator Program
14 with the Cities of Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and
15 Shoreline, Kirkland has benefitted from having a contracted MHP
16 in co-response with law enforcement one to two shifts per week;
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19 WHEREAS, on August 4, 2020, the City Council adopted
20 Resolution R-5434 affirming that Black lives matter and approving
21 the framework for Kirkland to become a safe, inclusive, and
22 welcoming community through actions to improve the safety and
23 respect of Black people in Kirkland and end structural racism by
24 partnering with those most affected; and
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26 WHEREAS, one of the accountability strategies outlined in
27 R-5434 directed the City Manager to "review national best
28 practices for alternatives to police for serving those experiencing
29 homelessness, behavioral health issues, drug addiction and other
30 community challenges" and identify possible changes to City
31 policies; and
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33 WHEREAS, the City contracted with Beyond Force to review
34 national best practices for alternatives to police response,
35 evaluate Kirkland's needs, and propose a framework for the City's
36 Community Responder Program; and
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38 WHEREAS, to operationalize the commitments made under
39 R-5434, and increase availability of mental and behavioral health
40 resources, and the City Council created the Community Safety
41 Initiative as the centerpiece of the 2021-2022 budget; and
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43 WHEREAS, the 2021-2022 Community Safety Initiative
44 created and funded four new "community responder" positions
45 with the stated goal of having enough "community responders" to
46 respond to service calls with an underlying behavioral health,
47 substance abuse, or developmental disability component 24 hours
48 per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year; and

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50 WHEREAS, on May 18, 2021, the City Council received the
51 review of national best practices for alternatives to police response
52 and a recommended framework for the Community Responder
53 Program and upon consideration, directed the City Manager to
54 continue the City's participation in the RADAR Navigator Program
55 and in parallel, establish the City's own Community Responder
56 Program by hiring community responders as full-time employees
57 of the City; and

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59 WHEREAS, on September 7, 2021, the City Council further
60 expanded the Community Responder Program through a series of
61 actions to better enhance recruitment efforts and further achieve
62 the goal of 24/7 coverage; and

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64 WHEREAS, in its current form, the City's Community
65 Responder Program has budget and position authority for eleven
66 staff, including one Program Manager, one Lead, four Community
67 Responders partnered with five EMT-Firefighters, totaling a \$1.25
68 million annual investment but due to the economic and labor
69 uncertainty has only hired the Lead position; and

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71 WHEREAS, on February 6, 2022, the RADAR Navigator
72 Cities approached the City of Kirkland with a proposal to expand
73 RADAR Navigators from a grant-funded pilot program to a more
74 sustainable model with increased staffing levels and enhanced
75 levels of service through General Fund contributions from each
76 member City.

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78 WHEREAS, on March 7, 2022, the Kirkland City Manager
79 proposed to the RADAR Navigator cities and police chiefs that
80 instead of investing in two separate programs, the parties explore
81 the benefits of merging the RADAR Navigator program and
82 Kirkland's Community Responder program into a consolidated
83 regional mobile crisis response entity; and

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85 WHEREAS, all five RADAR Navigator cities supported
86 exploration of a regional mobile crisis response entity recognizing
87 that potential benefits of a merged program include achieving
88 expanded crisis response coverage in all cities and avoiding
89 competition through consolidated staffing; the opportunity to
90 elevate the governance structure of the program from police
91 chiefs to city managers and/or elected officials of the member
92 cities; and alignment with regional efforts to site a crisis
93 stabilization clinic in North King County, among others; and

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95 WHEREAS, on April 5, 2022, the City Council considered
96 the proposal to merge the RADAR Navigator and Community
97 Responder Programs into a consolidated regional mobile crisis

98 response program, managed by a new regional entity, and
99 directed the City Manager to prepare a resolution stating the
100 Council's interest in such a partnership, and key interests for the
101 City Manager to bear in mind for negotiating an interlocal
102 agreement.
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104 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the
105 City of Kirkland as follows:
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107 Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and
108 directed to negotiate an interlocal agreement with the cities of
109 Shoreline, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Bothell to form a new
110 regional entity to provide a consolidated and standardized mobile
111 crisis response program that achieves the following goals:

- 112 a. Reduces use of police as a primary response to community
113 members in crisis and improve outcomes for those community
114 members by deploying mental health professionals or similarly
115 certified staff as crisis responders;
- 116 b. The primary responders to community members in crisis are the
117 regional entity's mental health professionals, where appropriate;
- 118 c. The regional entity advocates for and supports the formation of
119 a regional crisis stabilization facility in North King County; and
- 120 d. The regional entity supports and advises dispatch agencies over
121 time as they develop and adopt dispatch protocols for mobile
122 crisis responders that utilize both 911 and 988 centers of
123 dispatch.
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125 Section 2. The City Manager is further directed to negotiate
126 specific terms of an interlocal agreement with partner cities that
127 meet the following operational interests of the City of Kirkland:

- 128 a. The regional entity is governed by a board of city managers and
129 administrators, elected officials, or some combination of
130 appointed and elected officials from each member city;
- 131 b. The regional entity collaborates with community members with
132 lived experience in the crisis care and/or behavioral health
133 systems;
- 134 c. The regional entity builds towards achieving mental health
135 professionals available to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a
136 week, 365 days per year;
- 137 d. The regional entity is funded through contributions from all
138 member cities based on an agreed upon methodology and a
139 formal budgeting process that includes review and approval by
140 member cities.
- 141 e. The regional entity governance structure includes a voting
142 system that includes weighted voting, or inclusion of veto
143 powers, to reflect the relative proportion of member cities'
144 contributions;
- 145 f. The regional entity has one fiscal and administrative agent, a
146 role City of Kirkland can offer to fill if other cities prefer not to
147 serve in this capacity;
- 148 g. The regional entity will structure shifts and caseload in a way
149 that maintains appropriate response times for Kirkland, such as
150 certain units being based in close proximity to Kirkland;
- 151 h. Member cities in the regional entity agree to develop and adopt
152 shared mobile crisis response dispatch plans and protocols that

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are integrated between both 911 and the upcoming 988 centers of dispatch; and

- i. 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 ____ day of _____, 20.

Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____, 20.

Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

Kathi Anderson, City Clerk

North Sound RADAR Navigator Program

The Police Departments in Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell and Kirkland have a program that sends Social Worker-Navigators out to mental health and substance use crisis calls in progress, and to follow up with people and refer them to services and supports in the community.

We are seeking people with lived experience to participate in the North Sound RADAR Navigator

Community Advisory Board

**Nothing About Us...
Without Us**

-Disability rights activist James
Charlton

We are looking for people who have lived experience with behavioral health conditions, homelessness, or the crisis system and their families and caregivers, for a new Advisory Board for the RADAR Navigator Program. Advisory Board members will participate in monthly meetings to help us design a response program that truly meets our community's needs.

- Live in Shoreline, LFP, Kenmore, Bothell or Kirkland
- Commitment is 1-2 hours per month
- Compensation available for Board participants' time
- Email for information or to join

If you are interested in being part of the advisory board to help create alternative responses in our community, email RADARNavigator@bothellwa.gov

North Sound RADAR Navigator Program

Community Advisory Board

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the details

- People who have experience with behavioral health, homelessness and the crisis system have invaluable expertise in how to make the system better
- 7-10 individuals who live in Shoreline, LFP, Kenmore, Bothell or Kirkland will be invited to participate in the Advisory Board
- Inclusivity is our goal, and we hope the Advisory Board will be representative of the diversity of our community including age, race, ethnicity, city, religion, gender identity, disability status and other identities
- We ask that potential board members be prepared to commit 1-2 hours per month for a period of at least one year
- Meetings will be scheduled to best meet the availability of participants and will start in early 2022
- Meetings will be held in person or via Zoom, depending on public health recommendations
- Funds are available to compensate Advisory Board members for their time