

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  
5

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  
12

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  
17

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  
24

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  
30

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  
35

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  
40

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  
47

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  
55

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  
60

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  
67

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  
73

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  
80

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  
90

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.  
98

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:  
106

- 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.

119  
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

153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163

- 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