



# Community Safety Initiative

## Investing in a More Equitable, Safe and Resilient Kirkland

The overarching theme of the City of Kirkland's 2021-2022 Budget is *"Investing in a More Equitable, Safe and Resilient Kirkland."* Equity, safety and resiliency are all interrelated, and this budget reflects their interdependence. The centerpiece of the 2021-2022 budget is the **"Community Safety Initiative"** designed to help Kirkland become a more equitable city where Black community members feel safe and respected and structural racism is eliminated. This Community Safety Initiative is focused on implementation of **R-5434** and related equity needs and consists of three primary elements. This document summarizes the final Community Safety Initiative adopted by the Council on December 8, 2020.

### What is R-5434?

City of Kirkland Resolution R-5434 is a framework of actions to improve the safety and respect of Black community members and end structural racism. To stay up to date on opportunities to be involved in this community engagement process, please sign up for the City's email list for this effort: <https://bit.ly/3hPpOqz>

## 1. Community Safety Partners - (\$2,538,442)

Community safety partners are non-commissioned City employee "co-responders" who partner with Police to respond to service calls that require something different than a Police Officer. These partners will help connect struggling residents with the social and health services they need, reduce the burden of mental health and social service calls on Police Officers, and contribute to the successful de-escalation of challenging behavioral health situations. The City's goal is to ensure availability of "co-responders" 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

The budget includes funding for:

- » **Sustaining the current co-responder positions:** Park Ranger, Animal Control Officer, and one contracted mental health professional
- » **A second dedicated mental health professional** paired with a new firefighter/emergency medical technician, funded by the Medic One levy
- » **Five new community safety partner positions:** four positions are new co-responders plus a proposed Public Safety Community Relations Specialist

## 2. Community and Police Safety Investments - (\$1,282,314)

Community and Police Safety Investments advance the goals in R-5434 as well as Kirkland's commitment to being safe, inclusive and welcoming for all people. The budget includes funding for:

- » **Body worn cameras for all Kirkland Police Officers** as well as the evidence technician and public records staff positions necessary to support the body worn camera program. The decision to implement body worn cameras has not yet been made by the City Council and will be informed by the R-5434 community engagement process and future Council deliberations.
- » **Police community accountability initiatives** that will be defined by the R-5434 process.
- » **Diversity recruitment and retention efforts** to increase the diversity of race, cultural backgrounds, gender, and sexual orientation in both the Police and Fire Departments.
- » **Organization-wide efforts to improve equity and diversity** as programs and training are identified through R-5434.
- » **A pilot program for Community Court in Kirkland** in partnership with the Municipal Court Judge to divert disadvantaged populations from the criminal justice system and connect them instead with needed support services.
- » **A high-level Diversity and Inclusion Manager position:** the scope and duties of this position will be defined by the equity gap analysis as part of R-5434 implementation.





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## 3. Housing and Human Services - (\$1,338,875)

In addition to improving the safety and respect of Black people, another primary goal of R-5434 is to end structural racism in Kirkland. The proposed budget addresses the intersection of race and class by providing additional investments in food and shelter services, behavioral health services and creating a path to recovery and self-sufficiency. This path is further improved by creating more affordable housing and economic opportunity in Kirkland. The budget includes funding for:

- » Reauthorizing the **enhanced human services funding** approved by the Council that was intended to expire after 2020.
- » **Mental health programs, domestic violence prevention, suicide prevention** and related services, funded through **Police Proposition 1**.
- » **Low income resident rental assistance and construction of new units of affordable housing:** the housing sales tax credit revenues authorized by the state legislature through House Bill 1406 in 2019 is projected to provide over \$200,000 per year.



*Kirkland Place for Families and Women: A permanent, 24-hour shelter — the first of its kind on the Eastside.*

## Related Affordable Housing Investments - (\$1,930,000)

- » **A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)** staffing and the ARCH Trust Fund contribution - (\$830,000)
- » **Catalyzing affordable housing in Kirkland:** Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and new program support dollars have been set aside to create housing opportunities beyond ARCH - (\$1,100,000)

## Related Arts & Cultural Events Investments - (\$50,000)

- » **Funding to support diversity in public art** - (\$18,000)
- » **Funding to support diversity in cultural events** - (\$32,000)

## Human Services Reserve Funding - (\$423,563)

- » The Council invested the first year of body worn camera funding into a human services reserve to further support as needed those impacted economically by COVID.

## More Information:

To learn more about the 2021-2022 budget process, go to [www.kirklandwa.gov/budget](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/budget). If you have any questions, contact:

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