



King County

Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting

**Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022
9:30am – 12:00pm**

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING

1. Welcome

Attending virtually: Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers, chair, Lou Frantz, Angélica Cházaro, Chris Carney, Andrés Muñoz, Sara Rankin, Oloth Insyxiengmay, Nyema Clark

Not present: John Strait, Shrounda Selivanoff

2. Approval of minutes from meeting on June 2, 2022

Lou moves, Chris seconds - approved

3. Approval of minutes from meeting on June 24, 2022

Lou moves, Chris Carney seconds – approved

4. Approval of minutes from meeting on Aug. 4, 2022

Lou moves, Chris seconds -- approved.

5. Public comment

None.

6. Remarks from SEIU Representatives (Molly Gilbert)

SEIU is excited about the new SMC contract, a significant win. Attrition seems to have slowed a bit and some Class A laterals have been hired, which is good. We're still working to challenge the jail conditions and have some hope that ACLU's Hammer lawsuit will reopen. Sara Rankin asks if there's anything the board can do to support this effort. Molly says the ACLU is the best avenue at this point. Molly offers to send PDAB poll results from members and clips about this issue to the board.

7. Remarks from Teamsters Representatives (Rachael Schultz)

Teamsters are also pleased by the SMC contract. Hiring difficulties continue. We, too, are deeply concerned about jail conditions.

8. Director's Report

Hiring – Anita

We're currently hiring 3Ls to become new attorneys at DPD next fall. Countless interviews have been scheduled. We have nine acceptances from across the country – all quite strong. Diversity, including people with lived experience, remains a challenge for us.

SMC contract – Anita and Gordon

DPD just secured a new contract in SMC that sets the annual maximum attorney caseload at 325 and awards supplemental credits after the first 10 hours. Anita calls out the excellent work by Stev Weidlich, Laura Federighi, and Gordon Hill. It also means more support staff. Gordon notes that we entered into this with the assumption of 27 caseload-carrying – and we have 21 currently – so we'll to hire more attorneys.

Data on filing trends, assignments, and more – Stev

Felony court assignments for September are right around last year's numbers. The numbers have been fairly constant since a high in March.

Felony assignments over the last 30 days average around 25 or so per day. What's noteworthy is the difference between Seattle and Kent: We're currently seeing many more assignments in Seattle than Kent, which affects staffing.

August was a big month for felony assignments – one of the biggest in quite some time; September was lower. A big month like the one in August has a significant impact.

Felony assignments over last 24 months clearly shows this growing split between Seattle and Kent assignments; that split used to be close to even – now it's about 2/3s (Seattle) to 1/3 (Kent).

Open felony cases by month: Things have evened out at around the 6000 level – the chart shows the numbers for all felonies. But drilling down, we see that Felony As keep going up over time; Bs and Cs have gone down.

Felony charges by charge group: Seeing fewer thefts / burglaries – and a slight uptick in assaults.

SMC assignments: We've seen a large jump in the total number of assignments – as well as a changing mix in those assignments.

SMC filings: Much higher this year than in 2021 and consistent month over month. Clear correlation with new CAO administration.

Assigned council assignments: The numbers have remained fairly steady.

Intern hiring – Tara

Tara and others are interviewing 2Ls for next summer's intern class. Those who we hire as interns will likely become attorneys at DPD after they graduate – a long but important process. We've interviewed 71 law students and have 30 more to come. So far, we've hired 12 students as interns and are looking to hire at least 10 more. Students are from Seattle U, UW, NYU, Columbia, Howard, Berkeley, and other law schools across the country.

9. Chair's report (Shoshana)

New PDAB chair

A new chair is needed. Lou nominates Shoshana as chair. Chris seconds. Approved! PDAB still needs a vice chair; Lou encourages people present to consider that role. Shoshana says she'll reach out to others, as well.

2023-24 Budget for DPD

Shoshana says she and Lou met with Anita and Gordon re the 2023-24 budget pending before the County Council to determine the most important issues to share with the Council as they go through their budget deliberations. Jenny Giambattista says the sooner PDAB can convey their priorities to council members, the better.

Shoshana will get started right away on a PDAB budget advocacy document. Christina will schedule a meeting for later in October, by which point Shoshana hopes she'll have something for board members to look at and approve. A quorum will be needed for that meeting. Shoshana talks about how critical it is for a quorum at that meeting.

10. Executive session

No executive session.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourns at 11 a.m.