Regional Law Safety & Justice Committee

Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 28, 2019

Inquests
Tom Koney, Deputy Director, King County Department of Executive Services
Dee Sylve, Inquest Program Manager
Gail Stone, Law & Justice Policy Advisor, King County Executive Office

Key Points

- The King County Charter requires inquests in all law enforcement involved deaths.
- In 2017, Executive Constantine put a temporary moratorium on inquests and convened a committee to develop an improved process.
- In 2018, Executive Constantine signed an Executive Order outlining a new process for conducting inquests.
- Prior to the Executive Order, inquests were handled by District Court. They will now be handled by the Department of Executive Services (DES).
- DES hired an inquest program manager, Dee Sylve, a former paralegal from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.
- DES is currently conducting a request for proposals for pro-tem administrators and attorneys to administer inquests.
- Prior to the Executive Order, families who lost loved ones in law enforcement involved deaths had no right to representation. Going forward, families will have representation provided through the Department of Public Defense.
- The scope of work for inquests remains civil and limited to fact finding. However, they now may opine on whether the officer involved followed adopted policy.

I-940/Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act
Chris Fowler, Deputy Director, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission
Kim Mosolf, Disability Rights Washington and De-escalate Washington
Chief Ken Thomas, Des Moines Police Department, President, Washington State Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

Key Points

- Advocates from Deescalate Washington joined with law enforcement representatives to collaborate on legislation related to law enforcement training and community safety.
- The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission is currently making rules to implement the legislation.
- They are accepting public comment on de-escalation training here.