

Interlocal Agreement with Thurston County for Judicial Services

City Council, July 8, 2025

Debbie Sullivan, Assistant City Manager



Agenda

Tonight's Purpose:

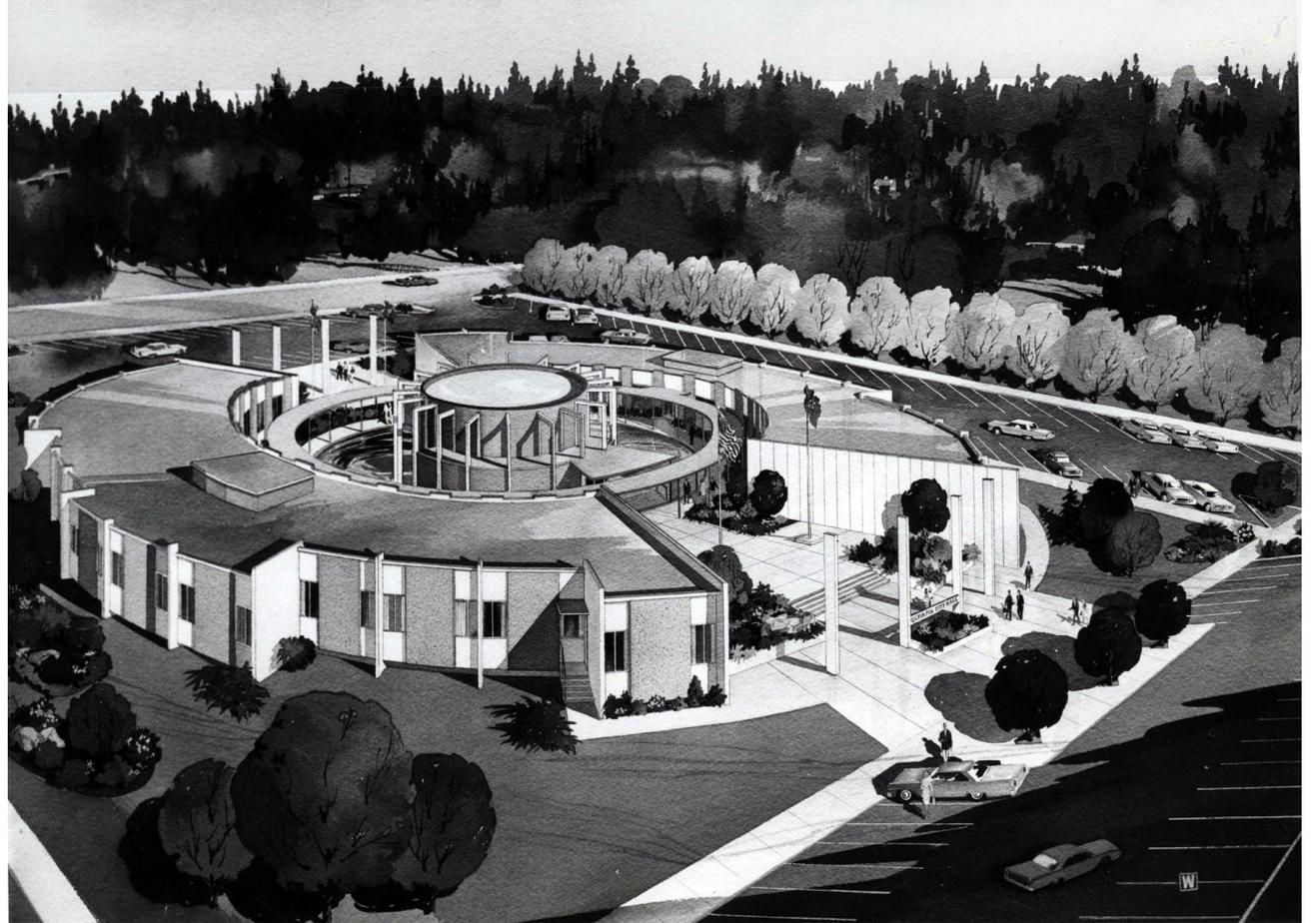
- Approval of a resolution authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Thurston County for Judicial Services

1. Background
2. Terms of the Agreement
3. Next Steps



Need to Transition & Building History

- Built in 1966
- Served as Olympia City Hall until 2011
- Repurposed to a Justice Center
- Courtroom renovation completed in 2017
- Building Condition Assessment Completed in 2019
- Justice Center Master Plan Completed in 2022
- Closed Jail in 2023
- Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with Island Enterprises in 2024



Guiding Principles

1. Reimagining Public Safety Goals

- Reduce the number of individuals who connect initially and repeatedly with law enforcement and the criminal justice system
 - Develop and expand pre-arrest and pre-booking diversion programs
 - Offer restorative practices and transformation justice options
 - Expand the availability and use of therapeutic courts

2. Long-term budget sustainability

- 2025 Operating Budget resulted in a loss of 25 FTEs
 - Use of \$4.1 million of Fund Balance for the General Fund
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Options Evaluated

- 1. Leasing Commercial Space**
- 2. Relocating to City-owned Buildings**
 - 108 State Avenue
 - City Hall Council Chambers
- 3. City County Partnership**
 - City Retains Prosecution, Victims and Domestic Violence Assistance Programs
 - City Retains Public Defense
 - Transition Judicial Services to Thurston County



April 22: City Council Direction

1. Share learning around the use of 108 State Avenue and Council Chambers as a long-term solution
2. Contact City of Tukwila to learn how they shared space
3. Collaborate with Municipal Court staff on a potential transition
4. Develop an employee transition plan
5. Enter negotiations with the County on an Interlocal Agreement



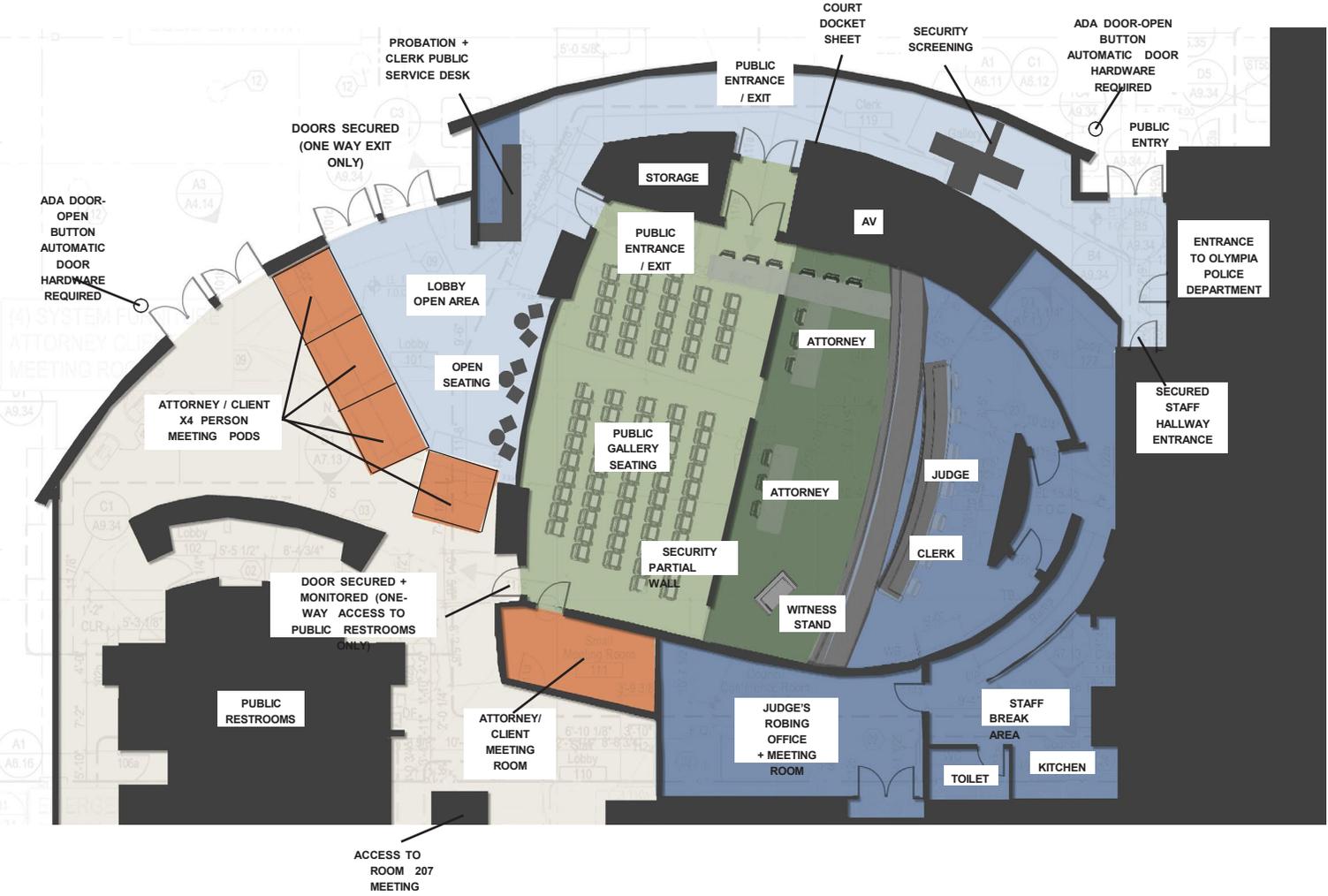
Update on Council Direction

1. Met with Judge Nogueira and Maryam Olson, Court Administrator
2. Met with County to discuss County Programs and Services – how they compare, transition topics, and timelines.
3. Met with City of Tukwila Court Administrator
4. HR Director met with, or scheduled, meetings with all Court and Probation employees
5. Project Engineer re-engaged with Court, Prosecution, Public Defense to confirm operational requirements
6. Entered negotiations for an Interlocal Agreement with Thurston County for Board of County Commissioners and City Council's consideration



June 12: City Council Study Session

- 1. Feasibility and Analysis of using 108 State Avenue and City Council Chambers as a permanent, long-term solution
- 2. Overview of Thurston County District Court Programs and Services
- 3. Briefing on Interlocal Agreement negotiations



Interlocal Agreement

Background:

Shaped by the City's Reimagining Public Safety Goals accepted by City Council in December 2022

The City and County are both committed to reimagining public safety by balancing compassion and accountability through the expansion of restorative justice programs and evidence-based courts

The City and County want to provide for progressive alternatives and community support through opportunities such as pre-trial diversion and probation services.



Interlocal Agreement Briefing

Purpose:

Provide all court services for all criminal cases and infractions requiring a hearing as well as progressive-alternatives and supervised probation.

Term:

July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026

- Comprehensive rate study to be completed by the County before the agreement expires
- Effective following 6-month notice provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- May extend by giving notice no later than October 1, 2026.



Interlocal Agreement Briefing

Scope of Services:

1. Case Processing and Management
 2. Progressive Alternatives, Supervised Probation, and Other Services
 - Veteran's Court, Mental Health Court, or other therapeutic courts
 - Annual Report detailing regarding enrollment offered through court programs or probation services
 3. File Management and Retention
 4. Changes in services requires minimum of 60 days' advance notice in writing.
 5. Annual meeting to discuss goals and collaborate to identify strategies on how to advance the City's Reimagining Public Safety goals using progressive alternative programs and services
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Interlocal Agreement Briefing

Costs for Service:

True cost for service with an agreement that the County will complete a comprehensive rate study prior to the expiration of this agreement in December 2026.

▪ Staffing	\$2,499,000
▪ Facility Lease	<u>\$ 203,000*</u>
	\$2,702,000

One-Time

▪ Furniture, computers supplies	\$ 96,000
▪ Tenant Improvements	\$640,000*

**estimate will be updated once bids are received*

Interlocal Agreement Briefing

Termination – RCW 3.50.810

- Written notice to the County no less than one year prior to February 1st of the year district court judges are subject to election
- Can only terminate at the end of the four-year district court judicial term.
- If County wants to terminate – notify Administrative Office of the Courts not less than one year before agreement expires



Next Steps

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| July 29 | Thurston County Board of County Commissioners |
| Aug. 1 | 6-month notice to Administrative Office of the Courts |
| Feb. 1, 2026 | Transition Judicial Services to Thurston County |

