

SLI Number:	18-2-A-1
Title:	Department of Neighborhoods (DON) programs and Council Districts
Councilmembers:	Bagshaw; Godden; Rasmussen
Staff Analyst:	Lish Whitson

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
11/16/2015	Pass 8- 1-Absent	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests that the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) develop a plan to reorient their programs around the new City Council District structure with a primary focus on the Neighborhood District Coordinator program and a goal for more equitable community engagement. The plan should include proposals for changes or modifications to the Neighborhood District Coordinators program, including proposals for updated job descriptions, protocols for working with district Councilmembers, and improvements to the City’s relationship to the existing District Councils and City Neighborhood Council. The Council requests the plan be submitted to the Council’s Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee in two phases: (1) a preliminary report due May 1, 2016, that would explain preliminary thoughts and be used to solicit feedback and input from Councilmembers, and (2) a final report due by no later than July 15, 2016.

Background:

Many DON programs, particularly the Neighborhood District Coordinators, Neighborhood Matching Fund and City Neighborhood Council/District Council programs, are structured around 13 Neighborhood Districts. The Neighborhood District boundaries were created in 1987 based around the 13 “Little City Halls” that were then in place. The seven City Council Districts created through Charter Amendment No. 19 in 2013 are increasingly being used as the default geography around which discussions of neighborhood issues take place.

Neighborhood District Coordinators are charged with providing technical assistance and support services for residents and neighborhood groups to develop a sense of partnership among neighborhood residents, businesses and City government. There are currently nine neighborhood district coordinators, assigned into three teams of three coordinators, with each coordinator assigned to support one or two District Councils. One of the major changes to the Department of Neighborhoods in the 2016 budget is an increased role and emphasis on community outreach and engagement. A stronger relationship between the Neighborhood District Coordinators and the Council Districts may be one of the most effective ways of better aligning the City’s current capacity for community outreach and engagement with new Council District-based needs.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Affordable Housing, Neighborhoods and Finance

Date Due to Council: May 1, 2016; July 15, 2016