



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 7017
October 6, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 7017: ESHB 2015 Public Safety Grant Award	☐ Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize the City Manager to accept a grant awarded in the amount of \$2,138,299 from the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to support public safety initiatives within Mercer Island, execute the grant agreement, and accept all grant renewals.	☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Police
STAFF:	Matt Mornick, Finance Director Jeff Magnan, Interim Police Chief Carson Hornsby, Management Analyst II
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. CJTC Grant Agreement
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	4. Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to request authorization from the City Council to accept the engrossed substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2015 Public Safety Grant Program award of \$2,138,299 in one-time funding from the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC).

- In May 2025, Governor Ferguson signed [ESHB 2015](#) into law, establishing new pathways for cities and counties to fund public safety, including a \$100 million grant program administered by the CJTC. Grant awards may be used for hiring law enforcement officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-response, as well as training on use of force, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and broader public safety work.
- Staff submitted an initial grant application to the CJTC on March 31, 2026. Over the following months, staff coordinated with the CJTC to finalize the City's funding request and come into compliance with the extensive policy requirements of the grant program.
- On September 2, 2026, the City was formally notified by the CJTC of a grant award of \$2,138,299 in one-time funding over a two-year period to fund a Police and Youth and Family Services (YFS) co-response model, personnel expenses for two police officers assigned to the Town Center to address

public safety needs related to the new Sound Transit Station, police uniform replacements, expansion of the City's CERT Program, and acquisition of Police safety equipment (see Issue/Discussion section below).

- With City Council authorization, the City Manager will sign the grant agreement with the CJTC (Exhibit 1). Staff will move forward with implementation of the co-response program, police uniform modernization initiative, CERT training expansion, and equipment acquisition funded by the grant. The grant award will be included in the final 2027-2028 Biennial Budget for City Council adoption tentatively scheduled for December 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2015 (2025)

In May 2025, Governor Ferguson signed [ESHB 2015](#) into law, establishing two new pathways for cities and counties to fund public safety: a \$100 million grant program and a new councilmanic public safety sales tax. ESHB 2015 took effect on July 27, 2025, and \$100 million was appropriated for the grant program in the Washington State Legislature's 2025-2027 operating budget.

ESHB 2015 created two processes for cities and counties to obtain funds for co-response, new officer hires, and other public safety purposes:

- Grant program: a state-funded grant administered by the CJTC. To be eligible, agencies must meet a series of policy, training, and accountability standards relating to the activities and functions used by law enforcement to maintain public order, enforce laws, and prevent crime.
- Councilmanic sales tax: a new 0.1% sales and use tax that cities or counties can levy without going to voters to fund broadly defined criminal justice purposes, provided they meet eligibility criteria.

The two funding mechanisms are structurally linked. To collect the sales tax, a jurisdiction must meet the requirements of the grant application. Among those requirements is authorizing the new public safety sales tax or receiving funds from an existing one, including a shared portion of the existing public safety sales tax (RCW 82.14.450) or the criminal justice sales tax (RCW 82.14.340) implemented by King County. Mercer Island currently receives a portion of the King County criminal justice sales tax, so this eligibility requirement has been met.

ESHB 2015 GRANT PROGRAM

Grant awards from the [ESHB 2015 Grant Program](#) are administered by the CJTC and can be used for hiring law enforcement officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-response, as well as training on use of force, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and broader public safety work.

ESHB 2015 instructs the CJTC to give highest priority to grant applications from agencies seeking to use the grants to pay for co-response teams, followed by those from agencies that already have co-response and are seeking to hire more law enforcement. The grant program expires on June 30, 2028.

To be eligible for the ESHB 2015 grant, a law enforcement agency must have:

- Established policies that comply with state law as well as the Attorney General's guidance for law enforcement practices related to citizenship status.
- Participated in CJTC trainings related to behavioral health and first aid.

- Established policies on de-escalation and use of force that incorporate the Attorney General’s guidance on duty to intervene and use of police dogs.
- Complied with state laws on use of force data reporting (once that state program is operational).
- Established policies related to civil protection orders and the court-ordered surrender of firearms.
- At least 25% of officers who have completed CJTC crisis intervention team training.
- 100% completion by required officers for CJTC trainings on sexual assault and gender-based violence.
- Received funds from or authorized a public safety or criminal justice sales tax.
- A police chief, sheriff, or marshal who is CJTC-certified and has no felony convictions or gross misdemeanor convictions for moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, or corruption.
- Established policies for supervising agency volunteers, for any insignia worn by volunteers, and for restricting those volunteers from enforcing criminal laws other than for special event traffic and parking, using force, carrying weapons, or using dogs for purposes besides search and rescue.
- Submitted to the CJTC detailed agency staffing reports and plans including co-response teams, administrative staff, specially commissioned officers, and officers on flexible schedules.
- Submitted to the CJTC average rates for the preceding year for 911 responses and case closures.

Through an extensive multi-month eligibility review process, the City of Mercer Island was found to have met all these requirements.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

MERCER ISLAND ESHB 2015 PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT AWARD

The City submitted its initial grant application to the CJTC on March 31, 2026, during the first round of applications. Although the City did not meet all the eligibility requirements at the time of the initial application, the City was encouraged to apply and work closely with CJTC staff to address the remaining eligibility requirements. On September 2, 2026, the City was formally notified by the CJTC of a grant award of \$2,138,299 as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1

Fund	Grant Initiatives	Amount
160	YFS Co-Response Model	1,563,352
001	Light Rail Officers (2)	294,205
001	Police Uniform Modernization	81,230
001	CERT Program Expansion	36,000
001	Police Safety Equipment	163,512
Total Award		\$ 2,138,299

Final confirmation of the grant award was received by the City after the 2027-2028 Preliminary Budget was finalized, therefore these funds are not reflected in the budget document. The funding will be added to the final budget upon acceptance of the grant award by the City Council.

Youth and Family Services Co-Response Model

The grant will fund a two-year pilot program that pairs the Mercer Island Police Department (MIPD) with Youth and Family Services (YFS) to better support individuals and families dealing with mental health challenges, substance abuse, domestic violence, or housing instability. This YFS-Police co-response model covers half the personnel costs of several existing YFS positions without adding new staff. Outcomes will be

tied to grant deliverables: fewer crisis response calls by Police, increased linkage to treatment and resources (at YFS or externally), and improved coordination and effectiveness of the police-social service response.

YFS is unique in that it is an “in-house” human service provider within the City of Mercer Island. Under this pilot co-response model, rather than using ride-along crisis workers, Police officers will connect people dealing with non-acute mental health, substance use, or resource challenges directly to YFS intake, counseling, and case management teams for coordinated care. A timely, coordinated response can help connect people with services when they may be more receptive to support, reducing the likelihood of recurring crises and repeat calls for police assistance.

This effort also helps YFS connect with residents who may not seek assistance on their own. MIPD’s ability to engage community members when in crisis provides an important point of connection to YFS services. By pairing Police work with in-house YFS personnel, this approach helps reduce pressure on police officers, cuts down on repeat 911 calls, and connects people to the care they need.

This program strengthens collaboration across the community – involving YFS, the School Resource Officer, patrol officers, School district personnel, and others – to better support youth, improve follow-up care for residents and seniors, and allow police to focus their limited resources on public safety.

The CJTC grant provides resources to support the staff time necessary to develop and implement a co-response model over the next two years. While no new staff positions are anticipated, the grant allows MIPD and YFS to build the tools, training, systems, and coordination needed to integrate this model into their work.

The two-year pilot will also allow the City to evaluate service levels, resource needs, and funding options with an eye toward long-term sustainability of a co-response model within the existing staffing structure. While the full level of service supported by the grant may not be sustainable once the funding ends, the pilot will provide staff and the City Council with the information needed to consider future service levels and funding. This work represents an opportunity to improve coordination between MIPD and YFS and strengthen service delivery to the community.

Police Officers Assigned to the Town Center/Light Rail Station

With the opening of light rail on Mercer Island in March 2026, the City Council previously authorized two additional Police Officer positions as part of a prior biennial budget process ([AB 5775](#)). The grant will fund the fully burdened personnel costs of these positions for two fiscal years.

The two officers support the Department’s response to increased public-safety and service demands associated with the light rail station and surrounding Town Center area, including pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic and transit-related activity, calls for service, and maintaining adequate patrol coverage throughout the City.

Police Uniform Replacement

Modernizing MIPD uniforms has been a City priority for several years, and the grant provides an opportunity to fund this work. The CJTC grant includes funding to replace the uniforms worn by all 33 officers to establish a consistent appearance. The new uniforms will also include some new body-worn equipment such as utility belts and pouches. These improvements will enhance officer comfort, safety, and tactical efficiency while also supporting the state’s public safety goals.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Expansion

The grant award includes funding to double the City's CERT Program training capacity in 2027 and 2028. While the City currently funds one course per year, this grant will support one additional bilingual course each year tailored for members of the community who speak English as a second language. The program will equip 20–40 new volunteers with essential emergency tools and safety resources.

Investment in Safety Equipment

The grant provides funding for one-time investments in safety and specialized equipment that is not currently included in the City's regular equipment replacement cycle. Identified based on operational needs and input from patrol officers, these investments include tools such as electronic drug identification and thermal imaging devices, as well as other specialized equipment to support emergency response, officer and community safety, and field operations.

GRANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The CJTC administers grant funding by reimbursement, and the City has the option to submit reimbursement requests on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. In addition, the City must submit an annual report to the CJTC detailing the impact of the grant and outcomes related to law enforcement and co-response services. The annual report will also be shared with the City Council and Mercer Island community.

NEXT STEPS

With City Council authorization, the City Manager will sign the grant agreement with the CJTC (Exhibit 1). The grant award resulting in one-time funding through 2028 will be included in the final 2027-2028 Biennial Budget for City Council adoption tentatively scheduled for December 1, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the City Manager to accept a grant awarded in the amount of \$2,138,299 from the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to support public safety initiatives within Mercer Island, execute the grant agreement, and accept all grant renewals as required.