



## Bellevue Youth Court: Fact Sheet



### A Collaborative Partnership

- Bellevue Youth Court is a partnership between the City of Bellevue and King County to reduce the recidivism rates among juvenile committing divertible crimes in the Bellevue area.
- Based on Whatcom County's Bellevue Youth Court Program, the Bellevue Youth Court is a three-year pilot project funded by the City of Bellevue/Youth Link Program and authorized by King County Superior Court.
- Bellevue Youth Court will be evaluated by an independent agency on the impact on youth respondents and youth volunteers participating in the youth court program.
- Bellevue Youth Court was launched January 29, 2008 and court is held monthly hearing two court cases per court session. 30-50 youth are trained as youth judges, jurors, bailiffs, clerks, and prosecuting and defense advocates (attorneys). Attorneys serve as mentors and guide the Defense and Prosecution Teams for each case.
- King County Superior Court judges—Carol Schapira and Harry McCarthy oversee the Bellevue Youth Court project and court sessions.
- As of February 2008, over 110 youth and adult volunteers have been trained providing over 750 volunteer hours in training and court service.

### Bellevue Youth Court Management Team

- Hon. Carol Schapira, King County Superior Court
- Hon. Harry McCarthy, King County Superior Court
- Lt. David Sellers, Bellevue Police Department & Youth Link Board
- Osbaldo Hernandez, Youth Link Board
- Tandra Schwamberg, Bellevue Probation Services
- Bonnie Glenn, King County Prosecutor's Office
- Darcie Chinn, Bellevue City Attorney's Office
- Helena Stephens, City of Bellevue, Parks & Community Services
- Melissa Galvez, Youth Eastside Services

### Bellevue Youth Court - Outcomes

- Introduce civic responsibility to Bellevue youth and teens regarding the King County Juvenile Court system.
- Provide opportunities for Bellevue youth to participate in the Youth Court.
- Motivate youth to take responsibility for reducing the number of teens engaged in the juvenile justice system.
- Reduce Bellevue youth recidivism rates by supporting judicial education and civic accountability
- Recognize and celebrate the impact of Bellevue's youth community on civic engagement and social responsibility.

For more information contact Helena Stephens—[hstephens@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:hstephens@bellevuewa.gov) or 425.452.2834