

**Regular Commission Meeting
Kitsap Community Resources
Bremerton, Washington
1:00pm – 4:00pm**

September 11, 2015

Members Present: Chair Donahoe, Vice Chair Reed Trahan, Commissioner Herron, Commissioner Quinn and Commissioner Waller, Executive Director Edward Prince and Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney

Absent: Commissioners Franklin, Smith and Williams

1:05 PM – Meeting called to Order. Chair Donahoe read meeting agenda aloud.

1:10 PM – Ban the Box Presentation by Bob Cooper, Evergreen Public Affairs

Bob Cooper: Last year, the Washington Defender Association Washington and the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers jointly lobbied to remove the box from job applications that asks “have you ever been convicted or arrested.” These organizations plan to resubmit this legislation in the upcoming session. Similar legislation was passed in Oregon and currently 17 other states that have passed it. It is a bi-partisan issue. The marginalizing questions are; ‘have you arrested or been convicted.’ The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says the face of them, these questions are discriminatory, due to the disproportionate numbers of African Americans in the criminal justice system, but they remain on applications throughout the economy.

When the box is checked people don’t get consideration despite there being a number of categories of crimes in America. No one gets the opportunity to explain, or demonstrate their potential value to an employer. Employers lose the opportunities of possibly gaining an employee. They are stuck on the stereotype of ‘have you ever been convicted.’ If the box is removed, it can help people get to the next step. More than 25% of African Americans have a felony record, so the box should be of serious concern to our community. Almost half of the African American population has an arrest record. If we can get the legislature to pass the legislation, there is an immediate increase in employment, and state revenue. There are reductions in crime, recidivism, law enforcement costs, prisons and social services.

2:15 PM - Oscar Eason Presentation

2:45 PM – Public Comment

2:50 PM – Break

3:05 PM – Executive Session Begins.

4:00 PM – Motion to adjourn; No opposition. Meeting Adjourned