



# City of Arlington Council Agenda Bill

Item:  
WS #1  
Attachment  
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<b>COUNCIL MEETING DATE:</b>	
November 14, 2016	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	
Community Court Presentation	
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	
None	
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN</b>	
Police; Jonathan Ventura, Chief (Daniel Blue and Christine Frausto - Feldman & Lee)	
<b>EXPENDITURES REQUESTED:</b>	None
<b>BUDGET CATEGORY:</b>	N/A
<b>LEGAL REVIEW:</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	
<p>This is a presentation to further education and discussions regarding the exploration of alternatives to strict incarceration as the best and only system to address our Nation and Community's current homelessness, drug addiction and mental health challenges.</p>	
<b>HISTORY:</b>	
<p>Community courts are neighborhood-focused courts that attempt to harness the power of the justice system to address local problems. They strive to engage outside stakeholders such as residents, merchants, churches, and schools in new ways in an effort to bolster public trust in justice. And they test new approaches to reduce both crime and incarceration. The first community court in the country was the Midtown Community Court, launched in 1993 in New York City. Several dozen community courts, inspired by the Midtown model, are in operation or planning around the country.</p> <p>Arlington currently does not have access to a Community Court but would like to explore the feasibility of a collaborative effort of the court, the police department, and community resource partnerships. One of the goals of Community Court is to find alternatives to jail-time for non-violent offenders who commit quality-of-life offenses (misdemeanors like trespassing or consuming alcohol in a public place). The COA currently spends an average of \$200 a day to house someone in jail. Reducing jail time reduces costs for our community and this type of program provides opportunities help people get the assistance they need and out of the justice system's revolving door.</p>	
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>	
N/A	
<b>RECOMMENDED MOTION:</b>	
Workshop; information only.	