



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 28, 2014

Ordinance 17812

Proposed No. 2014-0180.1

Sponsors Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE requiring the council review of bylaws
2 for the operation of the citizens' committee on independent
3 oversight; and amending Ordinance 15611, Section 9, as
4 amended, and K.C.C. 2.36.050.

5 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 6 1. Beginning in January 2006, the county council's law, justice and human
7 services committee held eleven meetings to consider civilian oversight for
8 the sheriff's office. During the same timeframe as the county council's
9 deliberations related to oversight, the sheriff established a "Blue Ribbon
10 Panel" to review the internal management systems within the sheriff's
11 office related to employee misconduct and discipline.
- 12 2. The law, justice and human services committee, based on its
13 deliberations and its review of the 2006 sheriff's oversight blue ribbon
14 panel report, developed legislation with the goal to design a system for
15 civilian oversight that allows for the independent civilian monitoring and
16 evaluation of ongoing investigations. The legislation included the creation
17 of a citizens' advisory committee on law enforcement oversight.
- 18 3. On October 9, 2006, the council approved Ordinance 15611 regarding
19 civilian oversight of the sheriff's office, creating the office of law

20 enforcement oversight as an independent office within the legislative
21 branch. The office was given significant powers to review complaints and
22 investigations; and to also create a citizens' advisory committee.

23 4. Shortly after the council approved Ordinance 15611, establishing the
24 requirements for civilian oversight of the sheriff's office, the King County
25 Police Officers Guild filed an unfair labor practice charge against the
26 county. On November 19, 2007, the county and the King County Police
27 Officers Guild finalized an agreement that Ordinance 15611 would be
28 treated as a labor policy and that this policy would need to be bargained in
29 good faith. As a result, the King County Police Officers Guild dismissed
30 its unfair labor practice charge against the county. As a consequence of
31 this agreement, the executive took no action to implement the elements of
32 Ordinance 15611.

33 5. On December 8, 2008, the council passed Ordinance 16327, approving
34 a new five-year collective bargaining agreement between King County
35 and the King County Police Officers Guild. The new collective
36 bargaining agreement required the county to repeal most of Ordinance
37 15611, eliminating the primary components of the legislation establishing
38 the office of law enforcement oversight. Nevertheless, the agreement let
39 stand the provisions creating the citizen's' advisory committee for
40 oversight.

41 6. In May 2009, the council adopted Ordinance 16511 to establish a
42 system of civilian oversight in accordance with the approved labor

43 agreement. The ordinance was developed to address the adopted
44 collective bargaining agreement while also preserving some civilian
45 oversight capabilities for the office of law enforcement oversight. The
46 new ordinance kept the provisions to establish a citizens' advisory board.

47 7. The adopted oversight legislation requires that the executive shall
48 appoint, subject to council confirmation, a citizens' committee on
49 independent oversight to advise the director of the office of law
50 enforcement oversight on policies, procedures and practices relating to
51 officer misconduct, discipline and other responsibilities of the director of
52 the office of law enforcement oversight.

53 8. Because of the desire of the council to ensure that the citizen's
54 committee on oversight is properly established and that its responsibilities
55 and scope of work address the council's intended purposes, this ordinance
56 requires that the council approve by motion the committee's bylaws.

57 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

58 SECTION 1. Ordinance 15661, Section 9, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.36.050 are
59 each hereby amended to read as follows:

60 A. The executive shall appoint, subject to council confirmation, a citizens'
61 committee on independent oversight to advise the director of the office of law
62 enforcement oversight, which is created under K.C.C. chapter 2.75, on policies,
63 procedures and practices relating to officer misconduct, discipline and other
64 responsibilities of the director of the office of law enforcement oversight.

65 B. The committee shall include eleven members of the public who represent the
66 geographic, ethnic and economic diversity of the sheriff's service area. The committee
67 shall consist of three members representing cities that contract with the sheriff for law
68 enforcement services, four members shall represent unincorporated King County and four
69 members shall be selected at-large. The committee members shall be appointed for three-
70 year terms, subject to reappointment for additional terms.

71 C. The committee shall make recommendations to the director regarding:

72 1. Misconduct and discipline policies, procedures and practices of the sheriff's
73 office;

74 2. Policies, procedures and practices related to other responsibilities of the
75 director of the office of law enforcement oversight; and

76 3. Public perceptions of the sheriff, the sheriff's deputies and their roles and
77 functions in the community.

78 D. The committee shall also serve as a means for the director of the office of law
79 enforcement oversight to communicate with King County's diverse communities. The
80 communication should increase accountability and public understanding of the
81 misconduct and discipline policies, procedures and practices of the sheriff's office and
82 other issues related to the director of the office of law enforcement oversight's
83 responsibilities.

84 E. The committee shall not review or advise the director of the office of law
85 enforcement oversight on individual complaints, investigations or disciplinary actions.

86 F. The committee, after consulting with the director of the office of law
87 enforcement oversight, shall adopt bylaws and rules, including meeting times and

88 quorum requirements, and submit a proposed motion for their approval to the council. To
89 take effect, the bylaws and rules must be approved by the council by motion.
90

Ordinance 17812 was introduced on 5/12/2014 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/27/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert,
Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 5th day of June, 2014.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

RECEIVED
2014 JUN - 6 PM 3:49
CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: None