

June 26, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans, and Education Committee
From: Greg Doss, Central Staff Analyst
Subject: CB 119547 and the Seattle Police Department's Community Service Officer Program

Council Bill (CB) 119547 would lift a proviso that requests the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to submit a report on the Community Service Officer (CSO) program that is funded in the [2019 Adopted Budget](#). On April 17, 2019, SPD and the Executive submitted to the Council a CSO Program Report (Attachment 1) that describes how CSOs will be deployed and how they will assist SPD officers in the field.

Executive and SPD staff have briefed the sponsor of the proviso (CM O'Brien) and the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans and Education Committee (CM González) on the proposed CSO program. These Councilmembers did not express any concerns with the CSO Program Report. Additionally, Central Staff analysis of the report has not surfaced any issues for further consideration.

Background:

SPD's CSO program operated for thirty-three years until its discontinuation in 2004 due to budget cuts. The CSO program is staffed by non-commissioned officers who are trained and work as liaison personnel between the community and the Police Department. Prompted by community interest in the program's revival, the program was re-instated in the 2018 Adopted Budget. SPD staff began outreach in early 2018 to determine how CSOs could best support the work of SPD officers. That work was underway when the Council adopted in the 2019 Adopted Budget Green Sheet 38-5-A-2-2019 (Attachment 2).

The Green Sheet restricts the 2019 budget appropriation for SPD so that no more than \$653,000 may be spent on the CSO program until the department submits a report that outlines CSO deployment plans in a manner that is "consistent with Council's understanding of the program's racial equity toolkit process and broader community engagement."

The full cost of the program in 2019 is projected to be \$1.3 million. Pursuant to direction provided in the Green Sheet, SPD is in the process of implementing the program and expects that full implementation will occur in the fourth quarter of 2019. The release of the budget proviso is necessary for SPD to fully execute the program this year.

The Executive's CSO Inter-Departmental Team (IDT), a work group consisting of staff from SPD the City Council, the Mayor's Office, the Office of Civil Rights, the Human Services Department, the Department of Neighborhoods, the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, the Community Police Commission, and the City Budget Office led a community engagement process and have documented in the CSO Program Report the public input that contributed to the development of the CSO program. The report covers CSO duties, training, uniforms, deployment schedules, community engagement tactics and provides some detail on how the CSOs will interact with the unsheltered population and communities of color.

Executive and SPD staff plan to present the report in the June 26, 2019 meeting of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans and Education Committee. The Council is expected to take action to lift the proviso on July 1st or July 8th.

Attachments

- 1) SPD's CSO Program Report
- 2) Green Sheet 38-5-A-2-2019