



# POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY ORDINANCE

BUILDING LASTING,  
INDEPENDENT  
POLICE REFORM IN SEATTLE

Presented to the  
**Gender Equity, Safe Communities  
& New Americans Committee**

March 23, 2017 / Brianna Thomas / Office of Councilmember González

# Creating Uniform Accountability

In 2010, after a series of use of force incidents, dozens of community organizations reached out to the Department of Justice (DOJ) requesting a formal investigation, which was completed in 2011.

Findings included:

## Excessive Use of Force



20% of all uses of force were unnecessary. Officers also escalated minor situations.

## Biased Policing



Potential biases in stopping people of color for questioning and disproportionate uses of force against them, all eroding community trust.

## Lack of Supervision & Accountability



SPD and others did not properly monitor or investigate uses of force.

# The Road Forward: Driving Compliance

- Transmittal from Mayor's Office to the Council: **2/1/17**
- GESCNA Committee Hearings: **8**
- Public Hearings: **2**
- Final Passage: **May**
- Final Review of Accountability Ordinance by **Judge Robart**



# Office of Inspector Generals, A Study Mission



# Creating Lasting & Meaningful Change



**Principles Become**



**Independent Institutions**

# CPC: Community Police Commission



Principle

## Community Voice at the Table

The community needs a strong, active role in police oversight to foster lasting trust.



Independent Institution

## Community Police Commission

This Community Police Commission (CPC) has developed reform recommendations and advocates for community interests and perspectives. Making the CPC permanent and giving it a meaningful role in police reform will ensure that the community's voice will not only be heard but will always influence police reform.

<https://www.seattle.gov/community-police-commission>

# OPA: Office of Police Accountability



Principle

## Meaningful Officer Accountability

Fair, effective and efficient investigations of officer misconduct are one of the cornerstones needed to build public trust.



Independent Institution

## Office of Professional Accountability

A civilian-led Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) investigates individual complaints about the police. Its independence will be strengthened by having additional civilian staff including investigators and complaint navigators.

<https://www.seattle.gov/opa>

# OIG: Office of Inspector General



Principle

## Independent Review of Systemic Issues

Meaningful police oversight and reform needs to be independent, sufficiently funded and ongoing.



Independent Institution

## Office of the Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) would be an independent auditor and monitor of the police department to provide systemic oversight of every SPD function with a priority on systems impacting civil rights. Councilmember González is leading the effort to create this new and independent office.



# Timeline Moving Forward

GESCNA Committee schedule for Police Accountability Ordinance, all in Council chambers and open to the public:

- **March 29th** @ 12 - 2pm
- **April 14th** @ 9:30 - 11:30am
- **April 26th** @ 9:30 - 11:30am
- **May 5th** @ 9:30 - 11:30am
- **May TBD**

