

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**

**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_**

..title  
AN ORDINANCE relating to the organization of City government; creating a new Community Safety and Communications Center; and making necessary amendments to Chapters 3.15, 3.28, 6.10, 10.08, 11.14, 11.16, and 12A.16 of the Seattle Municipal Code and Ordinance 86431 to implement associated organizational changes and make technical revisions.

..body  
WHEREAS, throughout the summer, Seattle residents have taken to the streets to protest the unjust murders of Black Americans, including George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the shooting of Jacob Blake; all of these individuals experienced violent and lethal force at the hands of the police; and

WHEREAS, in response to this local and national civil rights reckoning, community members and civic leaders, including the Mayor and members of the City Council, have committed to a holistic review and community-led discussion around the effectiveness of the current way that community safety is provided in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the shared vision for reimagining Seattle’s system of community safety recognizes the importance of providing alternatives to armed police officer response, including civilian and community-based services and solutions; and

WHEREAS, based on community input, the Mayor and the City Council will pursue the transfer of certain functions out of the Seattle Police Department, including Emergency Management, 9-1-1 Dispatch, and Parking Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, moving the law enforcement function of the Parking Enforcement Officers outside the Seattle Police Department will require commissioning those officers as special police officers under Seattle Municipal Code Sections 3.28.150-220; and

1 WHEREAS, changes to the Seattle Municipal Code and to ordinances are necessary to A) locate  
2 parking enforcement outside the Seattle Police Department and B) allow Parking  
3 Enforcement Officers, as special police officers, to continue enforcing Title 11, as limited  
4 by their special commissions under Seattle Municipal Code subsection 3.28.150.B; and

5 WHEREAS, the transfer of parking enforcement functions from the Seattle Police Department to  
6 a new Community Safety and Communications Center will require time to develop an  
7 appropriate organizational structure and to define new internal and intra-departmental  
8 procedures, some of which may be subject to bargaining; and

9 WHEREAS, the executive is prepared to transfer 9-1-1 Dispatch from the Seattle Police  
10 Department to a new Community Safety and Communications Center effective January 1,  
11 2021; and

12 WHEREAS, these transfers, taken in total, aim to reflect community expectations of the  
13 equitable delivery of City services, elevate emergency planning, improve the  
14 coordination of calls-for-service, increase civilian and community-based dispatch  
15 options, and bolster public trust and confidence in a reimagined system of community  
16 safety; and

17 WHEREAS, creating a new Community Safety and Communications Center will allow the City  
18 to improve customer service experiences, consolidate and co-locate communications and  
19 dispatch functions, as well as incorporate civilian and community-based dispatch  
20 alternatives that draws on the wealth of resources that currently exist in Seattle that could  
21 replace armed officer response to better meet community needs; NOW, THEREFORE,

22 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

1           Section 1. New Sections 3.15.060 and 3.15.062 are added to the Seattle Municipal Code  
2 as follows:

3 **3.15.060 Community Safety and Communications Center**

4 There is created within the Executive Department a Community Safety and Communications  
5 Center to provide timely, accurate, and vital information to the City's first responders, city  
6 service providers, and to the public and to provide civilian and community-based services and  
7 solutions to community safety challenges.

8           A. Effective the earlier of June 1, 2021 or 30 days after the Executive receives the  
9 necessary Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) access permissions for the 9-1-1 call center, the  
10 functions of the Community Safety and Communications Center are as follows:

11                   1. Act as the city's Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), providing 24-  
12 hour public safety communication and dispatch services for 9-1-1 calls originating in Seattle.

13                           a. Identify, triage, and dispatch public safety service requests to first  
14 responders and other community resources most appropriate to quickly and safely respond and  
15 resolve the requested need.

16                           b. Dispatch and provide continuous contact with responders, provides  
17 support functions for responding agencies, and coordinates responses between city departments  
18 and public safety agencies operating within Seattle.

19                           c. Notify City departments, City leaders, and other stakeholders of  
20 emergency incidents.

21                           d. Provide information and service referral to non-emergency callers.

22           B. Effective June 1, 2021, the following function shall be added to the Community  
23 Safety and Communications Center:

1                   1. Provide parking enforcement to assist in the administration of traffic laws, to  
2 the extent allowed by the commission of Parking Enforcement Officers as Special Police  
3 Officers and in coordination with the Seattle Police Department and the Seattle Department of  
4 Transportation.

5 **3.15.062 Director of the Community Safety and Communications Center**

6                   A. Appointment, term, and removal

7                   The Director of the Community Safety and Communications Center (CSCC) shall be  
8 appointed by the Mayor and subject to confirmation by a majority vote of City Council. The  
9 Director shall be subject to reappointment and reconfirmation every four years and may be  
10 removed by the Mayor upon filing a statement of reasons therefor with the City Council.

11                  B. Duties

12                  The Director of CSCC shall be the head of CSCC, shall be responsible for the  
13 administration of the CSCC, and shall:

- 14                   1. Develop and manage all functions and responsibilities of the CSCC.
- 15                   2. Subject to the City's personnel ordinances and rules, appoint, assign, supervise,  
16 control, and remove all officers and employees in CSCC;
- 17                   3. Manage the preparation of the preliminary proposed budget for CSCC,  
18 authorize necessary expenditures and enter into contracts for professional and expert services in  
19 accordance with the adopted budget, develop and manage programs, and undertake authorized  
20 activities;
- 21                   4. Administer all ordinances pertaining to the CSCC and its functions;
- 22                   5. Execute, administer, modify, and enforce such agreements and instruments as  
23 the Director shall deem reasonably necessary to implement city service dispatching consistent

1 with all applicable laws and ordinances, as the Director shall deem appropriate for carrying out  
2 the responsibilities, functions, and activities of CSCC;

3 6. Apply for grants for departmental programs;

4 7. Coordinate with outside jurisdictions;

5 8. Serve, in conjunction with other pertinent members of the Mayor's Cabinet, as  
6 the City's representative to intergovernmental and public-private boards, commissions,  
7 organizations, and committees engaged in issues pertaining to emergency communications and  
8 city service dispatching;

9 9. Provide input to the Mayor and City Council on the city's emergency  
10 communications and recommend actions to better respond to calls for assistance from the public  
11 and to better communicate with the public about dangerous situations and natural disasters;

12 10. Make periodic reports to the Mayor and City Council concerning the activities  
13 of CSCC;

14 11. Promulgate and amend, in accordance with Chapter 3.02, rules and  
15 regulations to carry out CSCC activities;

16 12. Maintain city compliance with all national, state, and county laws, rules,  
17 certifications, etc., as necessary for the efficient and robust city service response for all members  
18 of the community; and

19 13. Exercise such other and further powers and duties as shall be prescribed by  
20 ordinance.

21 Section 3. Section 3.28.100 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 101629,  
22 is repealed:

23 ~~((3.28.100 Transfer of parking meter regulations.~~

1 ~~As of January 1, 1973, the duty and responsibility of enforcement of certain parking meter traffic~~  
2 ~~regulations, and other related work, heretofore assigned to the City Treasurer by Ordinance~~  
3 ~~86431, is transferred to the Chief of Police as contemplated in the 1973 budget.)~~

4 Section 4. Ordinance 86431, which gave parking enforcement authority to special police  
5 officers in the City Treasurer's Office (now part of the Department of Finance and  
6 Administrative Services), is repealed.

7 Section 5. Section 11.14.440 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance  
8 108200, is amended as follows:

9 **11.14.440 Peace officer((=))**

10 "Peace officer" means ~~((any officer, including police officers, authorized by law to execute~~  
11 ~~criminal process or to make arrests for the violation of the regulations generally or of any~~  
12 ~~particular regulation relative to the highways of the state or to the streets or alleys of the City.~~  
13 ~~(RCW 46.04.391))~~ every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for  
14 violations of traffic regulations.

15 Section 6. A new Section 11.14.482 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

16 **11.14.482 Police officer**

17 "Police officer" has the same meaning as "peace officer" in Section 11.14.440.

18 Section 7. A new Section 11.14.657 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

19 **11.14.657 Traffic officer**

20 "Traffic officer" means any officer assigned by the Police Chief under Section 11.16.040 to  
21 direct traffic in conformance with this Subtitle I.

22 Section 8. Section 11.16.020 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
23 118409, is amended as follows:

1 **11.16.020 Police Department authority(~~☞~~)**

2 It is the function of the Police Department to enforce this (~~sub~~title) Subtitle I and all of the  
3 State (~~(Motor Vehicle Laws)~~) motor vehicle laws applicable to traffic and trains in this City, to  
4 make arrests and/or issue citations for traffic offenses, to cooperate with the Director of  
5 Transportation and other officers of the City in the administration of the traffic laws and in  
6 developing ways and means to improve traffic conditions, and to carry out those functions  
7 specially imposed upon the Police Department by this (~~sub~~title) Subtitle I and other traffic  
8 ordinances of this City. Special Police Officers who receive commissions consistent with  
9 Sections 3.28.150 through 3.28.220 may also enforce this Subtitle I to the extent allowed by their  
10 commissions.

11 Section 9. Section 11.16.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance  
12 108200, is amended as follows:

13 **11.16.040 (~~(Police authorization.)~~) Authorization to direct traffic**

14 Officers of the Police Department and such officers as are assigned by the Chief of Police, as  
15 well as Special Police Officers to the extent allowed by their commissions, are authorized to  
16 direct all traffic by voice, hand, or signal in conformance with the provisions of this  
17 (~~sub~~title) Subtitle I (~~(☞ Provided, that in the event of a fire or other emergency or to expedite~~  
18 ~~traffic or to safeguard pedestrians, officers of the Police Department may direct traffic as~~  
19 ~~conditions may require, notwithstanding the provisions of this subtitle)). Any officer authorized  
20 to direct traffic in conformance with the provisions of this Subtitle I may direct traffic as  
21 conditions require, notwithstanding other provisions of this Subtitle I, in the event of a fire or  
22 other emergency, to expedite traffic, or to safeguard pedestrians.~~

1 Section 10. Section 6.10.005 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
2 124963, is amended as follows:

3 **6.10.005 Definitions((=))**

4 The following definitions as well as the definitions contained in Chapters 5.30 and 10.08 of the  
5 Seattle Municipal Code shall be fully applicable to this Chapter 6.10 in its entirety, except as  
6 expressly stated to the contrary herein.

7 \* \* \*

8 E. "False ((~~Alarm~~) alarm)" means the notification to the Community Safety and  
9 Communications Center, Seattle Police Department, or Seattle Fire Department concerning the  
10 activation of an alarm system or alarm device when:

11 1. There is no evidence of a crime or other activity that warrants the assistance of  
12 the Seattle Police Department on the premises, as indicated by the investigation of a police  
13 officer on the scene or by the lack of a police report filed by the property owner, and no  
14 individual who was on or near the premises or who had viewed a video communication from the  
15 premises called for the dispatch or confirmed a need for police response; or

16 2. There is no indication or presence of a fire on the premises, that warrants a call  
17 for assistance from or investigation by the Seattle Fire Department, and no individual who was  
18 on or near the premises or who had viewed a video communication from the premises called for  
19 the dispatch or confirmed a need for fire response; or

20 3. The dispatch of police or fire personnel was cancelled by the alarm system  
21 monitoring company, whether the alarm was cancelled before or after the arrival of police or fire  
22 personnel at the alarm site.

23 \* \* \*

1 Section 11. Section 6.10.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
2 125449, is amended as follows:

3 **6.10.010 Alarm system monitoring companies—License required—Fee—Identification**

4 \* \* \*

5 D. The Department will issue a permit number to each alarm system monitoring company  
6 licensed under this Chapter 6.10, and such number shall be provided on the company's business  
7 license. The ((~~Seattle Police Department~~)) Community Safety and Communications Center shall  
8 reference this number as their Unique Identifying Number (UIN). All persons licensed pursuant  
9 to this Chapter 6.10 shall supply the ((~~Seattle Police Department personnel~~)) Community Safety  
10 and Communications Center with their permit number/UIN at the time an alarm is called in to  
11 the ((~~Seattle Police Department~~)) Community Safety and Communications Center.

12 \* \* \*

13 Section 12. Section 6.10.070 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance  
14 121332, is amended as follows:

15 **6.10.070 Suspension or revocation of license((:))**

16 The Director shall have the power and authority to suspend or revoke any license issued under  
17 the provisions of this ((~~chapter~~)) Chapter 6.10 as set forth in ((~~SMC~~)) Chapter 6.02. No  
18 suspended or revoked license may be reinstated without prior payment of all fees due and  
19 outstanding, including false alarm fees. The Director shall notify the Community Safety and  
20 Communications Center and the Seattle Police Department of any revocation or suspension, and  
21 in the discretion of the ((~~Police Department~~)) Community Safety and Communications Center  
22 no response may be made to any alarms monitored by the alarm system monitoring company  
23 until the license is reinstated. An alarm system monitoring company whose license has been

1 revoked or suspended shall notify each of its subscribers of the revocation or suspension. The  
2 notice shall be in writing and shall be mailed to all subscribers no later than the tenth calendar  
3 day following such suspension or revocation.

4 Section 13. Section 6.10.110 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
5 121932, is amended as follows:

6 **6.10.110 Notice and hearing on penalty for false alarms((~~7~~))**

7 A. The Department shall mail by first class mail, or transmit electronically if previously  
8 agreed between the Department and the alarm system monitoring company, a written notice of  
9 the false alarm fee to the alarm system monitoring company. The notice shall state the date and  
10 time of the false alarm, and that the alarm system monitoring company is entitled to a hearing to  
11 respond to the notice and introduce any evidence to refute or mitigate the determination that the  
12 false alarm occurred. All false alarm fees are due and payable within ~~((sixty (60)))~~ 60 days of the  
13 date that the Department mails or transmits the notice, unless: (1) an appeal is filed pursuant to  
14 subsection 6.10.110.B ~~((of this section))~~, in which case the fees appealed from are due and  
15 payable within ten ~~((10))~~ days after the date of the written ruling, or (2) a waiver is requested  
16 and an alarm user class is scheduled pursuant to subsection ~~((D of this section))~~ 6.10.110.C.

17 B. An alarm system monitoring company wanting to contest a false alarm fee shall file a  
18 written appeal with the Director within ~~((thirty (30)))~~ 30 days after the date of the notice. A  
19 hearing shall be held by the Director, or the Director's designee, not more than ~~((twenty (20)))~~ 20  
20 days from the date the appeal is filed. Within ~~((twenty (20)))~~ 20 days after the hearing, the  
21 Department shall issue a written ruling including factual findings and the Director's conclusion,  
22 with supporting reasons affirming or reversing the notice. The Decision of the Director shall be  
23 final.

1 C. ~~((The Director may, but is not required to, delegate authority to conduct hearings~~  
2 ~~under this section to the Seattle Police Department.~~

3 ~~D.))~~ The Director may waive the first false alarm fee once within an ~~((eighty-four (84)))~~  
4 84 month period per alarm site, if the owner of the monitored alarm attends an alarm user class  
5 as defined in Section 10.08.140 ~~((of the Seattle Municipal Code))~~. The owner of the alarm must  
6 attend the class within ~~((one hundred and twenty (120)))~~ 120 days of the date of the false alarm  
7 billing. A current Seattle subscriber that moves to a new address within Seattle shall receive a  
8 waiver for the first false alarm at the subscriber's new location if the owner attends a class after  
9 moving to the new location within ~~((one hundred twenty (120)))~~ 120 days of the false alarm,  
10 regardless of whether the first time waiver was granted to the subscriber at the subscriber's  
11 previous address.

12 Section 14. Section 10.08.140 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
13 123361, is amended as follows:

14 **10.08.140 Definitions((:))**

15 \* \* \*

16 I. "False ~~((Alarm))~~ alarm" means the notification to the Seattle Police Department or  
17 Community Safety and Communications Center concerning the activation of an alarm system or  
18 alarm device when:

19 1. There is no evidence of a crime or other activity that warrants the assistance of  
20 the Seattle Police Department on the premises, as indicated by the investigation of a police  
21 officer on the scene or by the lack of a police report filed by the property owner, and no  
22 individual who was on or near the premises or who had viewed a video communication from the  
23 premises, called for the dispatch or confirmed a need for police response; or



1                   1. An attempt by the alarm system monitoring company, or its representative, to  
2 contact the alarm site and/or alarm user by telephone and/or other electronic means, whether or  
3 not actual contact with a person is made, to determine whether an alarm signal is valid before  
4 requesting law enforcement dispatch, in an attempt to avoid an unnecessary alarm dispatch  
5 request. For the purpose of this (~~ordinance~~) Section 10.08.165, telephone verification shall  
6 require, as a minimum, that a second call be made to a different number if the first attempt fails  
7 to reach an alarm user who can properly identify themselves to determine whether an alarm  
8 signal is valid before requesting law enforcement dispatch;

9                   2. A feature that permits the alarm system user or a person authorized by the user  
10 to send a cancellation code to the alarm system monitoring company that will cancel an alarm  
11 immediately after it has been sent and prevent the monitoring company calling for a police  
12 dispatch;

13                   3. The installation of a video system that provides the alarm system monitoring  
14 company when the signal is received with the ability to ascertain that activity is occurring which  
15 warrants police assistance or investigation;

16                   4. An independent confirmation that a signal reflects a need for police assistance  
17 or investigation either by the alarm system user, a person at or near the premises, or an alternate  
18 response agency made before dispatching police; or

19                   5. An alternate system that the Chief determines has or is likely to have a high  
20 degree of reliability.

21                   E. When the Chief reports that there appears to have been a false alarm at a subscriber's  
22 premises, work cooperatively with the subscriber, the Director of the Community Safety and

1 Communications Center, and the Chief in order to determine the cause thereof and prevent  
2 recurrences.

3 Section 16. Section 10.08.178 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
4 121332, is amended as follows:

5 **10.08.178 Frequent false alarms—Process for disregarding automatic alarms—In-person**  
6 **verification((~~er~~))**

7 A. In exercising ((~~his or her~~)) discretion to make a dispatch in response to an automatic  
8 property or automatic burglary alarm, the Director of the Community Safety and  
9 Communications Center or Chief of Police may disregard a call for dispatch when:

- 10 1. The call comes from or is prompted by an automatic property alarm or  
11 automatic burglary alarm that has a record of sending six ((~~6~~)) false alarms within a period of  
12 ((~~twelve (12)~~)) 12 months; and  
13 2. The call is the only basis for making such a dispatch.

14 The Director of the Community Safety and Communications Center or Chief may  
15 consider such a call as an additional factor in making ((~~his or her~~)) a decision to order a dispatch  
16 when an in-person verification from an individual at the premises, or other independent  
17 evidence, shows a need for police assistance at the premises.

18 B. To discourage false alarms, the ((~~Chief~~)) Director of the Community Safety and  
19 Communications Center may adopt a process of sending a letter by regular mail informing the  
20 alarm system monitoring company of record of the false alarm history, the need to take  
21 corrective action, and the prospect that six ((~~6~~)) false alarms within a ((~~twelve (12)~~)) 12 month  
22 period shall result in the automatic signals being disregarded and an in-person verification being

1 required or other independent information showing a need for such a dispatch before a dispatch  
2 will be made to the premises.

3 C. Before acting as authorized in subsection 10.08.178.A (~~(of this section)~~), the ~~((Chief))~~  
4 Director of the Community Safety and Communications Center shall send or deliver a notice to  
5 the alarm system monitoring company that:

6 1. Six ~~((6))~~ false alarms have been received within a ~~((twelve (12)))~~ 12 month  
7 period;

8 2. The remedy authorized in subsection 10.08.178.A may be taken;

9 3. The alarm system monitoring company may request a hearing before the  
10 ~~((Chief))~~ Director of the Community Safety and Communications Center or ~~((his))~~ the Director  
11 of the Community Safety and Communications Center's designee and explain why the ~~((Chief))~~  
12 Director of the Community Safety and Communications Center should not take the proposed  
13 action; if no hearing is requested, the ~~((Seattle Police Department))~~ Community Safety and  
14 Communications Center will after ten ~~((10))~~ days disregard automatic signals from the  
15 premises without a verification from an individual or other independent information showing a  
16 need for such dispatch; and

17 4. A requirement of an in-person communication or verification may remain in  
18 effect for a period of ~~((three hundred sixty five (365)))~~ 365 days.

19 D. If a hearing is requested, the ~~((Chief))~~ Director of the Community Safety and  
20 Communications Center shall schedule the hearing within ten ~~((10))~~ days. Both the alarm user  
21 and a representative from the alarm system monitoring company are required to attend. The  
22 ~~((Chief))~~ Director of the Community Safety and Communications Center may take into  
23 consideration such factors as the steps that the alarm system user or alarm system monitoring

1 company has taken or is taking to correct the problem; the incidence of crime in the area; the  
2 facts and circumstances of the false alarms; and other relevant information presented by the user  
3 or the monitoring company.

4 E. The ~~((Chief))~~ Director of the Community Safety and Communications Center may  
5 suspend or cancel the remedy under subsection 10.08.178.A if ~~((he or she))~~ the Director of the  
6 Community Safety and Communications Center determines that the automatic alarm system has  
7 been corrected to prevent the recurrence of false alarms.

8 F. "Dispatch" means a discretionary decision whether to direct police units to a location  
9 where there has been a report made, by whatever means, that police assistance or investigation is  
10 needed. There is no duty to dispatch under any circumstances whatever, whether automatic  
11 alarms are involved or not, and all dispatch decisions are made subject to competing priorities  
12 and available police response resources.

13 Section 17. Section 12A.16.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by  
14 Ordinance 125254, is amended as follows:

15 **12A.16.040 False reporting.**

16 A person is guilty of false reporting if ~~((he or she))~~ the person:

17 \* \* \*

18 C. Makes a verbal statement relating to a crime, catastrophe, or emergency to a Seattle  
19 ~~((Police))~~ police officer or a ~~((Seattle Police Department))~~ 911 emergency operator, knowing that  
20 such statement contains a misstatement of a material fact; or

21 \* \* \*

1           Section 18. The Council requests that the Executive report to the city Council by March  
2 31, 2021 on 1) the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of providing parking enforcement officers  
3 access to the Seattle Department of Transportation’s car charging stations and, 2) additional staff  
4 and budget that would be required to support the potential expansion of the parking enforcement  
5 officers’ responsibilities as follows: managing traffic at lighted intersections, red light camera  
6 and school zone enforcement, response to non-injury collisions, response to and reporting on  
7 minor thefts and car-break-ins, and traffic control.

8

