



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Public Safety Committee

### Agenda

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025**

**9:30 AM**

**Council Chamber, City Hall  
600 4th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104**

**Robert Kettle, Chair  
Rob Saka, Vice-Chair  
Joy Hollingsworth, Member  
Debora Juarez, Member  
Sara Nelson, Member**

**Chair Info: 206-684-8807; [Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov](mailto:Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov)**

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**Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566**

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**SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Public Safety Committee**  
**Agenda**  
**September 23, 2025 - 9:30 AM**

**Meeting Location:**

Council Chamber, City Hall , 600 4th Avenue , Seattle, WA 98104

**Committee Website:**

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-safety>

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This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business. Pursuant to Council Rule VI.C.10, members of the public providing public comment in Chambers will be broadcast via Seattle Channel.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

*Please Note: Times listed are estimated*

**A. Call To Order**

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**C. Public Comment**

**D. Items of Business**

1.     [Appt 03303](#)     **Appointment of Jennifer Carl as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2025.**

Attachments:   [Appointment Packet](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (5 minutes)

**Presenter:** Eci Ameh, Executive Director, Community Police Commission
  
2.     [Appt 03304](#)     **Appointment of Jeremy Holmes as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2026.**

Attachments:   [Appointment Packet](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (5 minutes)

**Presenter:** Eci Ameh, Executive Director, Community Police Commission
  
3.     [Appt 03322](#)     **Appointment of Rick Williams as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments:   [Appointment Packet](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (5 minutes)

**Presenter:** Eci Ameh, Executive Director, Community Police Commission

4.     [CB 121079](#)     **AN ORDINANCE relating to the City’s civil infraction code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; and amending Sections 16.64.040 and 21.36.922 of the Seattle Municipal Code.**

Supporting  
Documents:

[Summary and Fiscal Note](#)  
[Central Staff Memo](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (5 minutes)

**Presenters:** James Kenny, City Attorney's Office; Tamaso Johnson,  
Council Central Staff

5.     [CB 121080](#)     **AN ORDINANCE relating to the City’s criminal code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; adding a new Section 12A.06.095 to the Seattle Municipal Code; amending Sections 3.33.020, 12A.06.187, 12A.06.195, 12A.09.020, 12A.12.040, 12A.14.075, and 12A.14.170 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Sections 12A.06.045, 12A.08.120, and 12A.08.130 of the Seattle Municipal Code.**

Supporting  
Documents:

[Summary and Fiscal Note](#)  
[Central Staff Memo](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (5 minutes)

**Presenters:** James Kenny, City Attorney's Office; Tamaso Johnson,  
Council Central Staff

6.     [CB 121081](#)     **AN ORDINANCE** relating to the City’s traffic code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; and amending Sections 11.22.080, 11.31.050, and 11.58.005 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Supporting  
Documents:

[Summary and Fiscal Note](#)  
[Central Staff Memo](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (5 minutes)

**Presenters:** James Kenny, City Attorney's Office; Tamaso Johnson, Council Central Staff

7.     [CB 121064](#)     **AN ORDINANCE** relating to removing the City residency requirement for judges pro tempore in Seattle; amending Section 3.33.140 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Supporting  
Documents:

[Summary and Fiscal Note](#)  
[Central Staff Memo](#)  
[Seattle Municipal Court Presentation](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (5 minutes)

**Presenter:** Tamaso Johnson, Council Central Staff

8.                   **Community Safety Initiative Update**

Supporting  
Documents:

[Presentation](#)

**Briefing and Discussion** (60 minutes)

**Presenters:** Tanya Kim, Erika Pablo, and Owen Kajfasz, Human Services Department; Dr. Lee Hunt, Seattle Police Department

## **E. Adjournment**



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 03303, **Version:** 1

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Appointment of Jennifer Carl as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2025.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



## City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> Jennifer Carl		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> Community Police Commission		<b>Position Title:</b> Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>		<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>		<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025  <i>X Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> Burlington	<b>Zip Code:</b> 98233	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b>
<b>Background:</b> Jen brings over 15 years of experience working with legal system-involved individuals and building partnerships across government, nonprofit, and private sectors to address systemic inequities—particularly those impacting communities of color, the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and others facing structural disadvantage. With a background in forensic science, psychology, and criminology, and having worked closely with law enforcement agencies in both Washington and Alaska, they are deeply committed to data-driven, community-centered public safety. Their passion for equity work began during their time in Baltimore during the Freddie Gray case, and they have since dedicated their career to improving public safety systems through collaboration, policy change, and inclusive leadership. Jen believes in the CPC's critical role in ensuring accountability and is eager to contribute their skills to furthering its mission.		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>   <b>Date Signed (appointed):</b> August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> Bruce A. Harrell Mayor of Seattle

**EXPERIENCE**

**Assets Protection Outreach Coordinator**

**10/2021 – Present**

*Target, Seattle, WA*

- Builds partnerships with local community outreach programs, government officials, and public safety organizations to provide stores with necessary resources, including, but not limited to; homelessness, substance use, mental health, BIPOC/LGBTQIA2S+/Veteran/youth services, domestic violence, and trafficking support programs – connected over 5000 guests to resources with only 4% recidivism rate
- Leads and influences a security culture across multiple stores, including incident and crisis prevention and response tactics
- Works with diverse team members and guests to bridge gaps on inclusive terminology, culturally competent care, implicit bias mitigation, and systemic issues - Trains, teaches, and educates both internal and external stakeholders on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice, including bias recognition, communication styles, understanding violence, mental crisis response, and leading with empathy
- Spearheads security incident investigations, how to determine root causes, and provide action plan coaching to prevent future incidents
- Leads a reduction in shortage by \$42M dollars and security incidents by 56% through empathetic leadership strategies and DEIB
- Owns risk management and physical security routines and processes, solicitation, and incident and crisis prevention
- Managed creation of APOC role through project/program management, including on-boarding documentation, job description, KPIs, and expansion to additional markets
- Planned and executed over 300 events with local NPOs and advocated for funding and legislation - \$1M raised for local organizations; legislation including restorative funding for marginalized communities
- Led a team of ~150 across 35 stores in WA and AK

**Asset Protection Manager**

**01/2021 – 10/2021**

*Nordstrom, Bellevue, WA*

- Owned civil unrest strategies in the area
- Led emergency preparedness, including Lockdown, Active Shooter, and Fire Evacuation
- Owned the integrity and safety of the structure and its systems
- Executed communication and planning with third party vendors
- Recruited and developed talented and diverse professionals, having 16 promotions from team
- Managed 8% shrinkage reduction through internal and external initiatives, deploying a team of mobile agents when necessary
- Led a team of ~24 across 5 stores in WA and managed budgeting for each
- Training subject matter expert for NW region, providing necessary training documentation
- Owned relationships with public safety organizations to create community and ORC initiatives
- Analyzed trends for data-driven safety solutions
- Led DEI Board for NW Region

**Loss Prevention Manager**

**02/2020 – 01/2021**

*Nordstrom Rack, Baltimore, MD*

- Led as mentor manager, teaching essential training to AP throughout the company
- Promoted 15 team members to larger roles across 6 stores
- Closed 7 internal theft cases, leading the MD/DE/PA district to number one in the company
- Lowered shrinkage in three stores by both dollar amount and percentage
- Actively sought feedback while leading stock walks with District and Regional leaders, bringing the average stock walk score from a 74% to a 93%
- Owned Violence in the Workplace incidents, creating safety plans for potential victims
- Owned COVID safety, administration, alarm, and security SME for NE region

**Combined Operations Manager**

**07/2018 – 02/2020**

*Nordstrom Rack, Buffalo, NY*

- Managed Loss Prevention and Building Services departments and ~40 employees across 9 stores in NY and New England
- Created regional training documentation for fraudulent activity
- Reduced shrinkage in three stores by both percentage and dollar amount during each cycle of Physical Inventory
- Acted as the Pride Ambassador and Diversity & Inclusion board member

**Loss Prevention Agent**

**01/2017 – 07/2018**



*Nordstrom Rack, Buffalo, NY*

- Developed training plan for new hires

**Loss Prevention Service Ambassador**

**06/2016 – 01/2017**

*Nordstrom Rack, Buffalo, NY*

- Led the store Known Theft program to ensure accurate inventory control

**Shoes/Accessories Sales Associate**

**01/2016 – 06/2016**

*Nordstrom Rack, Buffalo, NY*

- Created relationships with customers based on excellent customer service skills
- Became an expert in product knowledge and store processes, including points of sale

**University of Maryland Police Auxiliary Supervisor**

**11/2014 – 01/2016**

*University of Maryland, College Park, MD*

- Displayed excellent interpersonal communication skills among student police aides, officers, supervisors, and Communications via radio, email, and in-person
- Supervised approximately 70 employees
- Managed payroll, incident reports, theft prevention, vehicle maintenance, and billing of contracts
- Thought strategically to create a plan of action for changing procedures following civil unrest in Baltimore
- Developed skills in prioritizing, multi-tasking, and organization while acting as the “eyes and ears” for UMPD officers
- Communicated effectively through speech, writing, and example by teaching individuals on campus, as well as fellow police aides, about safety and security
- Planned auxiliary response and coordination for large events, such as commencement and sporting events
- Mentored fellow students from various educational paths
- Led DEIB initiatives for UMPD

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- FBI Citizen’s Academy Graduate, 06/2024
- Seattle Police Community Academy Graduate, 06/2024
- Puget Sound Business Journal Outstanding Voices Award, 06/2024
- National Loss Prevention Hall Community Champion Award, 2024

**SKILLS**

- Microsoft office, including Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Outlook
- Creating and presenting training
- Customer satisfaction
- Team recruitment and development
- Exception based reporting, intrusion systems, CCTV systems
- Collaboration between public and private sector organizations and entities
- Government policies and procedures
- Change management
- Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- Empathetic leadership

**EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS**

- Criminal Justice – Organizational Leadership, DCJ, Northcentral University, San Diego, CA, 2021-Present
- LPQ – February 2020 – March 2020
- Wicklander-Zulawski – February 2020 – March 2020
- National Society of Leadership and Success – Executive Leadership Certification – May 2022
- Diversity and Inclusion, Certificate – Cornell Online, Ithaca, NY - February 2022 – May 2022
- Six Sigma Black Belt, Certificate – Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH – May 2023 – July 2023
- Psychology – Forensic, MS, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH 2019-2021
- Criminal Justice – Forensics, BS, American Intercontinental University, Schaumburg, IL 2017-2018
- Criminal Justice, AS, Erie Community College, Buffalo, NY, 2016-2017
- Pre-professional Biology, AA, Valencia College, Orlando, FL, 2012–2014

# Community Police Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125315, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms however, for initial terms should be as follows:

- 5 City Council-appointed
- 5 Mayor-appointed
- 5 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify): Commission

## Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
			1.	Member	Jennifer Carl	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	Mayor
			2.	Member	Jeremy Holmes	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
			3.	Member	Raven Nicole Tyler	1/1/22	12/31/24	1	Mayor
2	F		4.	Member	Arlecier West	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	M		5.	SPMA Rep	Anthony Gaedcke	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	Mayor
6	M		6.	Member	Joel Merkel	1/1/25	12/31/27	2	Council
			7.	Member	Le'Jayah Washington	1/1/22	12/31/24	2	Council
			8.	Member	Tascha Johnson	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	Council
			9.	Member	Rabbi David Benchlouch	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Council
	M		10.	Member	Ken Nsimbi	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Council
2	F		11.	Member	Erica Newman	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	CPC
			12.	Member	Joseph Seia	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	CPC
			13.	Public Defense		1/1/24	12/31/26		CPC
			14.	Civil Liberties		1/1/24	12/31/26		CPC
2	M		15.	SPOG Rep	Mark Mullens	1/1/23	12/31/25	3	CPC

## SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	2	1				1				2			
Council	1									1			
Other	1	1				2							
Total	4	2				3				3			

## Key:

- \*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)  
 \*\*G List *gender*, M= Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, NB= Non-Binary O= Other U= Unknown  
 RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

*Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.*



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 03304, **Version:** 1


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Appointment of Jeremy Holmes as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2026.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



## City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> Jeremy Holmes		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> Community Police Commission		<b>Position Title:</b> Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>		<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>		<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2026  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> Seattle	<b>Zip Code:</b> 98133	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b>
<b>Background:</b> <i>Over the years, I've had several encounters with law enforcement—never by choice. I'm a law-abiding citizen with no criminal record, yet I often feel a sense of anxiety when in the presence of a uniformed officer. My hope in joining the CPC is to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and community members who share these feelings. I want to bring forward the perspectives of communities I believe are often underserved. While I may not have direct experience in this field, I bring lived experience as a Black person in the Pacific Northwest—a perspective I feel is both valuable and necessary.</i>		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>   <b>Date Signed (appointed):</b> August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> Bruce A. Harrell Mayor of Seattle

\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

# Jeremy Holmes

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## Summary

Dedicated and community-minded professional with over 10 years of experience serving the public in healthcare and customer-focused environments. Skilled in building relationships and listening to diverse perspectives. Actively involved in volunteer work providing free vision care to underserved communities. Passionate about civic engagement, neighborhood well-being, and amplifying voices that are often underrepresented.

## Relevant Experience

Optician | Eye Eye – Seattle, WA

2020 – Present

- Serve a diverse population in a fast-paced optical practice.
- Help patients navigate insurance, prescriptions, and vision health.
- Participate in community outreach and educational events when needed.

Volunteer | Uplift NW Free Community Eye Clinics – Seattle, WA

2022 – Present

- Assist with organizing and delivering free eye exams and glasses for low-income and uninsured individuals.
- Provide compassionate service and help patients understand their vision needs.

## Skills & Strengths

- Community Outreach
- Public Speaking & Active Listening
- Equity-Minded Decision Making
- Event Coordination
- Strong Ethics & Professionalism

# Community Police Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125315, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms however, for initial terms should be as follows:

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## Roster:

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			1.	Member	Jennifer Carl	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	Mayor
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			3.	Member	Raven Nicole Tyler	1/1/22	12/31/24	1	Mayor
2	F		4.	Member	Arlecier West	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	M		5.	SPMA Rep	Anthony Gaedcke	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	Mayor
6	M		6.	Member	Joel Merkel	1/1/25	12/31/27	2	Council
			7.	Member	Le'Jayah Washington	1/1/22	12/31/24	2	Council
			8.	Member	Tascha Johnson	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	Council
			9.	Member	Rabbi David Benchlouch	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Council
	M		10.	Member	Ken Nsimbi	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Council
2	F		11.	Member	Erica Newman	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	CPC
			12.	Member	Joseph Seia	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	CPC
			13.	Public Defense		1/1/24	12/31/26		CPC
			14.	Civil Liberties		1/1/24	12/31/26		CPC
2	M		15.	SPOG Rep	Mark Mullens	1/1/23	12/31/25	3	CPC

## SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
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Mayor	2	1				1				2			
Council	1									1			
Other	1	1				2							
Total	4	2				3				3			

## Key:

\*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

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RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

*Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.*



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 03322, **Version:** 1

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Appointment of Rick Williams as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



## City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>Rick Williams</i>		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> <i>Community Police Commission</i>		<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Member</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>		<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/1/2025 <b>to</b> 12/31/2027  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> <i>N/A</i>	<b>Zip Code:</b> <i>N/A</i>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Background:</b> <i>Rick Williams is the brother of John T. Williams, an Indigenous woodcarver that was tragically killed by Seattle Police in 2010. John's death led to a federal investigation, resulting in a settlement agreement referred to as the Consent Decree and the establishment of Seattle's police accountability system and CPC.</i> <i>The Williams family has been carved into the history and land of Seattle for generations. The Williams family are members of the Nu-chah-Nulth of Ditidaht First Nations. They are from the Thunder Bird Longhouse.</i> <i>Rick Williams is a long-term activist who has received international acclaim for his peacekeeping. He has been active in police reform discussions in Seattle and nationally. The CPC is honored to have Mr. Williams agree to join the Commission, dedicating his time, wisdom, and the deeply valued perspectives of his tribal community to uplifting the voices of communities most impacted by policing.</i>		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b> <i>Robert E Kettle</i>  <b>Date Signed (appointed):</b> 09/04/2025		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <i>Robert Kettle</i> <i>Seattle City Councilmember</i>

\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.



# RICK WILLIAMS

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Williams Family Carvers**, Seattle, WA

1955 – Present

*Carver*

The Williams family has been carved into the history and land of Seattle for generations. The Williams family are members of the Nu-chah-Nulth of Ditidaht First Nations. They are from the Thunder Bird Longhouse. Rick takes the traditional Nitinat style of his father and adapts a variety of colors to blend with his artistic vision.

**Tacoma Indian Center**, Tacoma, WA

2010 – Present

*Instructor*

Lead group and private woodcarving lessons.

# Community Police Commission

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6	M		6.	Member	Joel Merkel	1/1/25	12/31/27	2	Council
			7.	Member	Le'Jayah Washington	1/1/22	12/31/24	2	Council
			8.	Member	Tascha Johnson	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	Council
4	M		9.	Member	Rick Williams	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Council
	M		10.	Member	Ken Nsimbi	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Council
2	F		11.	Member	Erica Newman	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	CPC
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2	M		15.	SPOG Rep	Mark Mullens	1/1/23	12/31/25	3	CPC

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RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** CB 121079, **Version:** 1

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### CITY OF SEATTLE

### ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

### COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City's civil infraction code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; and amending Sections 16.64.040 and 21.36.922 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

### BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 16.64.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 120023, is amended as follows:

#### **16.64.040 Violation-Penalty((-))**

Except as provided in this ~~((title))~~ Title 16, failure to perform any act required or the performance of any act prohibited by this ~~((title))~~ Title 16 is designated as a class 2 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120 and may not be classified as a criminal offense. ~~((The provisions of the Seattle Municipal Code))~~ Sections 11.31.020 through 11.31.070 ~~((shall))~~ apply to the disposition of such civil infractions.

Section 2. Section 21.36.922 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 126921, is amended as follows:

#### **21.36.922 Civil infractions**

A. The violation of or failure to comply with any section of this Chapter 21.36 identified in this Section 21.36.922 is designated as a civil infraction and shall be processed as contemplated by chapter 7.80 RCW.

B. The violation of or failure to comply with any of the following sections is a Class 1 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120:

Section 21.36.415 (Discarding potentially dangerous litter), except that the maximum monetary

penalty and default amount is \$500, not including statutory assessments

Section 21.36.030 (Unlawful hauling of City's Waste - Exceptions)

Section 21.36.084 (Prohibition on use of expanded polystyrene food service products)

Section 21.36.086 (Compostable or recyclable food service ware required)

Section 21.36.089 (Construction and demolition waste recycling required)

Section 21.36.100 (Single-use plastic and recyclable paper checkout bags)

C. The violation of or failure to comply with any of the following sections is a Class 2 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120:

Section 21.36.410 (Littering)

~~((C.))~~ D. The violation of or failure to comply with any of the following sections ~~((shall be a civil infraction and subject as))~~ is a Class 3 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120 ~~((to a maximum monetary penalty and default amount of \$50, not including statutory assessments))~~:

Section 21.36.044 (Containers required - Nonresidential)

~~((Section 21.36.410 (Littering)))~~

Section 21.36.425 (Accumulation of solid waste)

Section 21.36.430 (Unlawful use of City litter receptacles)

Section 21.36.440 (Unlawful use of solid waste container on private property)

~~((D.))~~ E. For purposes of RCW 7.80.040, the "enforcement officers" authorized to enforce the provisions of the Solid Waste Code are: (1) the Director of Seattle Public Utilities; (2) authorized representatives, assistants, or designees of the Director of Seattle Public Utilities; and (3) commissioned officers of the Seattle Police Department and persons issued nonuniformed special police officer commissions by the Chief of Police with authority to enforce such provisions.

~~((E.))~~ F. An action for a civil infraction shall be processed in the manner contemplated by chapter 7.80 RCW.

((F-)) G. The City Attorney is authorized for and on behalf of The City of Seattle to initiate legal action to enforce this Chapter 21.36 as deemed necessary and appropriate.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, and signed by  
me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Approved /    returned unsigned /    vetoed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
Law – Criminal	James Kenny/ 684-8532	N/A

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to the City’s civil infraction code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; and amending Sections 16.64.040 and 21.36.922 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

#### **Summary and Background of the Legislation:**

The civil infraction ordinance is designed to ensure that Seattle’s civil infraction code generally matches state law.

The primary effects of this ordinance are to:

- Section 1. It updates 16.64.040, the Harbor Code, to make the default infraction penalty a class 2 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120, which is \$125.
- Section 2. It updates 21.36.922 to increase littering infraction penalties under 21.36.410 to class 2 civil infractions under RCW 7.80.120, which is \$125, to implement Chapter 312, Laws of 2025, ESHB 1293. Currently, the littering infraction penalty is a class 3 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120, which is \$50.

### **2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? \_\_\_ Yes **X** No

### **3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? \_\_\_ Yes **X** No

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs? No.

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation? No.**

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?** This legislation would impact the Seattle Police Department and Municipal Court.
- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?** No.
- c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?** No.
- d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?** No.
- e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?** This legislation does not appear to have any RSJI implications or impact any vulnerable or historically disadvantaged community.
- f. Climate Change Implications**
  - 1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?** No.
  - 2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.** No.
- g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).** This legislation does not include a new initiative or major programmatic expansion.

**Summary Attachments:** None.



September 15, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Public Safety Committee  
**From:** Tamaso Johnson, Analyst  
**Subject:** Council Bill 121080 – 2025 Criminal ORD; Council Bill 121081 – 2025 Traffic ORD;  
Council Bill 121079 – 2025 Infraction ORD

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On September 23, 2025, the Public Safety Committee will discuss and potentially vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 121080](#), [CB 121081](#), and [CB 121079](#). These bills, which were transmitted directly from the City Attorney's Office (CAO), would make conforming changes to the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to align the City's criminal, traffic, and civil infraction codes, respectively, with recent changes to state law, and make technical corrections. Conforming legislation of this sort is routinely requested by CAO on an annual or semi-annual basis to bring SMC in line with state law and give CAO and the Seattle Municipal Court the statutory basis to implement relevant changes.

This memorandum describes the bills and outlines next steps.

### **CB 121080 – 2025 Criminal ORD**

As detailed immediately below, this legislation would make a number of substantive changes to the SMC, in addition to some technical revisions. While the Seattle Police Department has jurisdiction to investigate and enforce RCW crimes, adoption of state law crimes into SMC can further clarify this authority and more importantly enable CAO to prosecute these crimes in Seattle Municipal Court.

#### Substantive Code Changes

##### *Hazing*

This bill would add the crime of hazing to SMC. Hazing is defined, in sum, as an act affiliated with initiation into a student group "that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm" in a postsecondary educational context. Hazing would be a gross misdemeanor. The crime of hazing, originally created in RCW in 1993, was amended by the state legislature during the 2022 session and this bill would add the crime as amended to SMC.

##### *Firearm & Weapon Restrictions*

This bill would adopt various changes made to state law in recent years concerning firearms and other weapons. Generally, firearms regulation is an area of law where cities and other local government entities are preempted from enacting their own unique restrictions, but may choose to adopt changes made by the Washington State Legislature. This bill would adopt RCW 9.41.010 and 9.41.390 which, taken together, prohibit with limited exceptions the manufacture,

import, distribution, and sale of a category of firearms known as “assault weapons” defined by reference to a list of specific firearms in combination with a descriptive schema based on certain firearm features. Violations of these assault weapon provisions would be a gross misdemeanor. This bill would also create a civil infraction in the amount of \$1,000 for failing to report the theft of a firearm within 24 hours to the Seattle Police Department. Finally, the bill would also add libraries, zoos and aquariums, and transit stations and facilities to the existing list of places where weapons are prohibited. Violations of City place-based weapons restrictions would be punishable as a gross misdemeanor. Statutory changes related to firearms and other weapons described above were made to RCW by the state legislature during the 2023 and 2024 sessions.

#### *Vehicle Prowl 2*

This bill would adopt the RCW crime of vehicle prowling in the second degree into SMC. Vehicle prowling 2, unlawful entry into a vehicle (other than a motor home or boat) with the intent to commit a crime, would be a gross misdemeanor, elevated to a class C felony upon third and subsequent such offenses. This bill would also repeal the current City crime of vehicle prowling in conjunction with the above RCW adoption.

#### *Catalytic Converters*

This bill would adopt 2024 RCW changes requiring detached catalytic converters to be marked with partial vehicle identification numbers and create new gross misdemeanors for the removal of such markings as well as the possession or sale of unmarked catalytic converters, with exceptions.

#### *Disorderly Conduct on Ferries*

This bill would also adopt 2025 RCW changes adding Washington State ferries to the scope of the existing “disorderly conduct on buses” misdemeanor, a crime that encompasses a range of undesirable behavior if occurring on a public transit vehicle or at a station.

#### *Impersonation – Forged Digital Likenesses*

In addition, this bill would adopt 2025 RCW changes expanding the existing crime of criminal impersonation to cover distribution of a forged visual or audio digital likeness of another person with illegal intent. This change would repeal the existing SMC crime of criminal impersonation and replace it with adoption of the RCW crime of criminal impersonation in the second degree, which would retain the other elements of criminal impersonation beyond the new forged digital likeness provisions.

## Technical Changes

This bill would also make the following technical changes and corrections to City criminal code:

- Update a citation in Section 3.33.020, describing the jurisdiction of the Court, relating to domestic violence offenses to a current reference;
- Repeal the City crime of Cyberstalking to account for the consolidation of Stalking and Cyberstalking crimes in RCW and subsequent City adoption of this change;
- Update the crime of Interfering with the Reporting of Domestic Violence to incorporate an updated code reference; and,
- Update Section 12A.06.195 concerning weapon surrender to include corrected references to current SMC and RCW.

## **CB 121081 – 2025 Traffic ORD**

### Substantive Code Changes

#### *Covered License Plates*

This bill would update vehicle license plate requirements to prohibit the use of license plate covers. Existing SMC prohibits plate frames, holders, or other materials that “change, alter, or make a license plate [illegible],” but does not explicitly ban plate covers (e.g. tinted plastic covers commonly in use). This change would mirror a state law change adopted by the legislature in 2024 which was intended to address an increase in the use of plate covers which obscure license plate legibility by law enforcement officers and automated tolling cameras.

#### *Infraction Response Time*

Current SMC requires a person issued a traffic infraction notice to respond within 15 days. This bill would extend that response time requirement to 30 days from the date of notice. This change would mirror a state law change adopted by the legislature in 2021.

#### *Negligent Driving with Vulnerable User Victim*

This bill would establish new offenses of negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the first and second degrees. “Vulnerable user of a public way” would be defined to mean, in sum: a pedestrian; person riding an animal; or, a person operating a wheeled vehicle other than an automobile. The new first degree offense would be triggered by negligent driving that is likely to endanger a person or property, and results in the death of a vulnerable user. The second degree offense would be triggered by similar conduct that results in great or substantial bodily harm to a vulnerable user, rather than death. The new first degree offense would be a gross misdemeanor with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine and a 90 day license suspension. The new second degree offense would be a traffic infraction. These changes would mirror state law changes adopted by the legislature in 2023.

## **CB 121079 – 2025 Infraction ORD**

### Substantive Code Changes

#### *Harbor Code Violations*

The City harbor code (SMC Title 16) contains various requirements and prohibitions related to waterways in Seattle. This bill would set default penalty amounts for harbor code violations to \$125 by designating such violations as class 2 civil infractions under RCW 7.80.120. This proposal is intended to address a gap in current SMC penalty provisions which do not clearly specify a base penalty amount for harbor code violations.

#### *Littering*

The City litter code (SMC Chapter 21.36, Subchapter V) prohibits littering (improper disposal of one cubic foot or less of non-hazardous material) and defines civil penalties for such conduct (Subchapter VI). This bill would increase the default penalty amount for littering from \$50 to \$125 by designating such violations as class 2 civil infractions under RCW 7.80.120. This proposed change would conform SMC to RCW changes made by the state legislature in 2025.

### **Next Steps**

Council Bills 121080, 121081, and 121079 are intended to be heard for the first time and potentially voted on during a single meeting of the Public Safety Committee on September 23, 2025.

cc: Ben Noble, Director



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** CB 121080, **Version:** 1

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### CITY OF SEATTLE

### ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

### COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City's criminal code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; adding a new Section 12A.06.095 to the Seattle Municipal Code; amending Sections 3.33.020, 12A.06.187, 12A.06.195, 12A.09.020, 12A.12.040, 12A.14.075, and 12A.14.170 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Sections 12A.06.045, 12A.08.120, and 12A.08.130 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

### BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 3.33.020 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 125881, is amended as follows:

#### **3.33.020 Jurisdiction-Authority**

The Municipal Court has jurisdiction to try violations of all City ordinances and all other actions brought to enforce or recover license penalties or forfeitures declared or given by any such ordinances. It is empowered to forfeit cash bail or bail bonds and issue execution thereon, to hear and determine all causes, civil or criminal, arising under such ordinances, and to pronounce judgment in accordance therewith; provided, that for a violation of the criminal provisions of an ordinance no greater punishment shall be imposed than is authorized by state law. Judges of the Municipal Court shall not defer sentence for an offense sentenced under Section 11.56.025. As authorized by RCW 35.20.255, the period of probation shall not extend for more than five years from the date of conviction for a defendant sentenced under Section 11.56.025 or for a domestic violence crime, which includes any non-felony crime listed in RCW 10.99.020, and the following crimes when committed by one family or household member, as that term is defined in Section ((12A.06.120)) 12A.09.020, against another: Assault, Stalking, and Violation of an Order under Section 12A.09.020, Reckless

Endangerment under Section 12A.06.050, Coercion under Section 12A.06.090, Interfering with the Reporting of Domestic Violence under Section 12A.06.187, Property Destruction under Section 12A.08.020, Criminal Trespass First Degree under Section 12A.08.040, and Criminal Trespass Second Degree under Section 12A.08.040; and two years in all other cases. All civil and criminal proceedings in Municipal Court, and judgments rendered therein, shall be subject to review in the Superior Court by writ of review or on appeal. Costs in civil and criminal cases may be taxed as provided by law.

Section 2. Section 12A.06.045 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 126691, is repealed:

**~~((12A.06.045 Cyberstalking~~**

~~A. A person is guilty of cyberstalking if he or she, without lawful authority and under circumstances not amounting to a felony attempt of another crime:~~

~~1. Knowingly and without consent:~~

~~a. Installs or monitors an electronic tracking device with the intent to track the location of another person; or~~

~~b. Causes an electronic tracking device to be installed, placed, or used with the intent to track the location of another person; and~~

~~2.~~

~~a. Knows or reasonably should know that knowledge of the installation or monitoring of the tracking device would cause the other person reasonable fear;~~

~~b. Has notice that the other person does not want to be contacted or monitored by him or her; or~~

~~c. The other person has a protective order in effect protecting him or her from the defendant.~~

~~B. It is not a defense to the crime of cyberstalking that the person was not given actual notice that the~~

~~other person did not want the defendant to contact or monitor him or her. It is not a defense to the crime of cyberstalking that the defendant did not intend to frighten, intimidate, or harass the other person.~~

~~C. The provisions of this Section 12A.06.045 do not apply to the installation, placement, or use of an electronic tracking device by any of the following:~~

~~1. A law enforcement officer, judicial officer, probation or parole officer, or other public employee when any such person is engaged in the lawful performance of official duties and in accordance with state or federal law;~~

~~2. The installation, placement, or use of an electronic tracking device authorized by an order of a municipal, state, or federal court;~~

~~3. A legal guardian for a disabled adult or a legally authorized individual or organization designated to provide protective services to a disabled adult when the electronic tracking device is installed, placed, or used to track the location of the disabled adult for which the defendant is a legal guardian or the individual or organization is designated to provide protective services;~~

~~4. A parent or legal guardian of a minor when the electronic tracking device is installed, placed, or used to track the location of that minor unless the parent or legal guardian is subject to a court order that orders the parent or legal guardian not to assault, threaten, harass, follow, or contact that minor;~~

~~5. An employer, school, or other organization, who owns the device on which the tracking device is installed and provides the device to a person for use in connection with the person's involvement with the employer, school, or other organization and the use of the device is limited to recovering lost or stolen items; or~~

~~6. The owner of fleet vehicles, when tracking such vehicles. For the purposes of this Section 12A.06.045, "fleet vehicle" means any of the following:~~

~~a. One or more motor vehicles owned by a single entity and operated by employees or agents of the entity for business or government purposes;~~

~~b. Motor vehicles held for lease or rental to the general public; or~~

~~c. Motor vehicles held for sale, or used as demonstrators, test vehicles, or loaner vehicles, by motor vehicle dealers.))~~

Section 3. A new Section 12A.06.095 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

**12A.06.095 Hazing**

A. No student, or other person in attendance at any public or private institution of higher education, or any other postsecondary educational institution, may intentionally haze another.

B. As used in this Section 12A.06.095, "hazing" includes any act committed as part of a person's recruitment, initiation, pledging, admission into, or affiliation with a student organization, athletic team, or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization, athletic team, or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm, to any student or other person attending a public or private institution of higher education or other postsecondary educational institution in this City, including causing, directing, coercing, or forcing a person to consume any food, liquid, alcohol, drug, or other substance which subjects the person to risk of such harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions.

C. Hazing is a gross misdemeanor.

Section 4. Section 12A.06.187 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 118107, is amended as follows:

**12A.06.187 Interfering with the reporting of domestic violence((;))**

A. A person commits the crime of interfering with the reporting of domestic violence if the person:

1. Commits a crime of domestic violence, as defined in Section ((12A.06.120)) 12A.09.020; and
2. Prevents or attempts to prevent the victim of or a witness to that domestic violence from

calling a 911 emergency communication system, obtaining medical assistance or making a report to any law



enforcement official.

B. Commission of a crime of domestic violence under subsection ~~((A of this section))~~ 12A.06.187.A is a necessary element of the crime of interfering with the reporting of domestic violence.

C. Interfering with the reporting of domestic violence is a gross misdemeanor.

Section 5. Section 12A.06.195 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 125881, is amended as follows:

**12A.06.195 Court order requiring surrender of firearm, dangerous weapon, or concealed pistol license**

\* \* \*

B. When entering an order authorized under Section ~~((12A.06.130, 12A.06.165, or 12A.06.170))~~ 12A.09.020 or RCW 7.105.450, 7.105.455, 9A.46.040, 9A.46.050, 9A.46.080, ((or)) 9A.46.085, 10.99.040, or 10.99.050 and upon a showing by either clear and convincing evidence or a preponderance of the evidence, but not by clear and convincing evidence, that a party has used, displayed, or threatened to use a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a felony, that a party has previously committed any offense making the party ineligible to possess a firearm under the provisions of RCW 9.41.040 or that a party's possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon presents a serious and imminent threat to public health or safety or to the health or safety of any person, the court shall:

1. Require the party to surrender any firearm or other dangerous weapon;
2. Require the party to surrender any concealed pistol license issued under RCW 9.41.070;
3. Prohibit the party from obtaining or possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon;
4. Prohibit the party from obtaining or possessing a concealed pistol license.

C. During any period of time a person is subject to a court order issued under Section ~~((12A.06.130, 12A.06.165, or 12A.06.170))~~ 12A.09.020 or RCW 7.105.450, 7.105.455, 9A.46.040, 9A.46.050, 9A.46.080, ((or)) 9A.46.085, 10.99.040, or 10.99.050 after a hearing of which the person received actual notice and at which the person had an opportunity to participate, that restrains the person from harassing, stalking, or threatening an

intimate partner of the person or child of the intimate partner or person, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the partner or child, that includes a finding that the person represents a credible threat to the physical safety of the intimate partner or child, and, that, by its terms, explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the intimate partner or child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury, the court shall:

1. Require the party to surrender any firearm or other dangerous weapon;
2. Require the party to surrender any concealed pistol license issued under RCW 9.41.070;
3. Prohibit the party from obtaining or possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon; and
4. Prohibit the party from obtaining or possessing a concealed pistol license.

\* \* \*

Section 6. Section 12A.08.120 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 108567, is repealed:

**~~((12A.08.120 Vehicle Prowling~~**

~~A person is guilty of vehicle prowling if, with intent to commit a crime against a person or property therein, he enters or remains unlawfully in a vehicle.))~~

Section 7. Section 12A.08.130 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 122789, is repealed:

**~~((12A.08.130 Criminal impersonation.~~**

~~A. A person is guilty of criminal impersonation if the person:~~

~~1. claims to be a law enforcement officer or creates an impression that he or she is a law enforcement officer, does an act with intent to convey the impression that he or she is acting in an official capacity and a reasonable person would believe the person is a law enforcement officer; or~~

~~2. falsely assumes the identity of a veteran or active duty member of the armed forces of the United States with intent to defraud for the purpose of personal gain or to facilitate any unlawful activity.~~

~~B. Criminal impersonation is a gross misdemeanor.))~~

Section 8. Section 12A.09.020 of the Seattle Municipal code, last amended by Ordinance 127056, is amended as follows:

**12A.09.020 Adoption of RCW sections**

The following RCW sections as amended are adopted by reference:

\* \* \*

7.105.460 - Enforcement and penalties - Extreme risk protection orders - False petitions

9.41.010 - Definitions

9.41.368 - Firearm security and storage - Loss or theft - Owner or other person

9.41.390 - Assault weapons - Manufacturing, importing, distributing, selling prohibited - Exceptions -

Penalty

\* \* \*

9A.50.900 - Construction

9A.52.100 - Vehicle prowling in the second degree

9A.60.010 - Definitions

9A.60.045 - Criminal impersonation in the second degree

9A.82.180(1), (2), (3)(a), (4), (7) - Catalytic converters - Marking requirements - Defense

\* \* \*

69.50.4018 - Sentencing considerations (except that these provisions apply to all misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors for public use and possession of a controlled substance)

Chapter 116, Laws of 2025 - Traveling animal acts - Certain animals

\* \* \*

Section 9. Section 12A.12.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 123191, is amended as follows:

**12A.12.040 Disorderly conduct on buses**

\* \* \*

B. As used in this Section 12A.12.040:

1. "Transit station" or "transit facility" means all passenger facilities, structures, stops, shelters, bus zones, properties, and rights-of-way of all kinds that are owned, leased, held, or used by a transit authority for the purpose of providing public transportation services.

2. "Transit vehicle" means any motor vehicle, street car, train, trolley vehicle, ferry boat, or any other device, vessel or vehicle that is owned or operated by a transit authority or an entity providing service on behalf of a transit authority that is used for the purpose of carrying passengers on a regular schedule.

3. "Transit authority" means a city transit system under RCW 35.58.2721 or chapter 35.95A RCW, a county transportation authority under chapter 36.57 RCW, a metropolitan municipal corporation transit system under chapter 36.56 RCW, a public transportation benefit area under chapter 36.57A RCW, an unincorporated transportation benefit area under RCW 36.57.100, a regional transportation authority under chapter 81.112 RCW, the Washington state ferries, or any special purpose district formed to operate a public transportation system.

\* \* \*

Section 10. Section 12A.14.075 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 124301, is amended as follows:

**12A.14.075 Unlawful use of weapons to intimidate another**

\* \* \*

D. Effective May 1, 2027, a person convicted of unlawful use of weapons to intimidate another shall lose his or her permit to purchase firearms, if any, and the court shall send notice of the conviction to the Washington State Patrol firearms background check program.

Section 11. Section 12A.14.170 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 126691, is

amended as follows:

**12A.14.170 Weapons prohibited in certain places**

A. It is unlawful for any person to enter the following places when he or she knowingly possesses or knowingly has under his or her control a weapon:

1. The restricted access areas of a jail, or of a law enforcement facility, or any place used for the confinement of a person (a) arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense((§)) ; (b) held for extradition or as a material witness((§)) ; or (c) otherwise confined pursuant to an order of a court, except an order under ((~~RCW Chapter~~)) chapter 13.32A or 13.34 RCW. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of egress or ingress open to the general public;

2. Those areas in any building which are used in connection with court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury rooms, judge's chambers, offices and areas used to conduct court business, waiting areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with court proceedings. The restricted areas do not include common areas of ingress and egress to the building that is used in connection with court proceedings, when it is possible to protect court areas without restricting ingress and egress to the building. The restricted areas shall be the minimum necessary to fulfill the objective of this subsection 12A.14.170.A.2. For purposes of this subsection 12A.14.170.A.2, "weapon" means any firearm, explosive as defined in RCW 70.74.010, or any weapon of the kind usually known as slung shot, sand club, or metal knuckles, or any knife, dagger, dirk, or other similar weapon that is capable of causing death or bodily injury and is commonly used with the intent to cause death or bodily injury. In addition, the local legislative authority shall provide either a stationary locked box sufficient in size for pistols and key to a weapon owner for weapon storage, or shall designate an official to receive weapons for safekeeping, during the owner's visit to restricted areas of the building. The locked box or designated official shall be located within the same building used in connection with court proceedings. The local legislative authority shall be liable for any negligence causing damage to or loss of a weapon either placed in a locked box or left with an official during the owner's visit to restricted areas of the building. The local

judicial authority shall designate and clearly mark those areas where weapons are prohibited, and shall post notices at each entrance to the building of the prohibition against weapons in the restricted areas;

3. The restricted access areas of a public mental health facility certified by the department of social and health services for inpatient hospital care and state institutions for the care of the mentally ill, excluding those facilities solely for evaluation and treatment. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of egress and ingress open to the general public;

4. That portion of an establishment classified by the state liquor control board as off-limits to persons under ~~((twenty-one-))~~ 21 ~~((+))~~ years of age; ~~((or))~~

5. The restricted access areas of a commercial service airport designated in the airport security plan approved by the federal transportation security administration, including passenger screening checkpoints at or beyond the point at which a passenger initiates the screening process. These areas do not include airport drives, general parking areas and walkways, and shops and areas of the terminal that are outside the screening checkpoints and that are normally open to unscreened passengers or visitors to the airport. Any restricted access area shall be clearly indicated by prominent signs indicating that firearms and other weapons are prohibited in the area ~~((+))~~ ;

6. The premises of a library established or maintained pursuant to the authority of chapter 27.12 RCW;

7. The premises of a zoo or aquarium accredited or certified by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums or the Zoological Association of America or a facility with a current signed memorandum of participation with an Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan; or

8. The premises of a transit station or transit facility. For purposes of this subsection 12A.14.170.A.8, "transit station" and "transit facility" have the same meaning as defined in RCW 9.91.025. "Transit station" and "transit facility" do not include any "transit vehicle" as that term is defined in RCW 9.91.025.

B. The perimeter of the premises of any specific location covered by subsection ((A of this section)) 12A.14.170.A shall be posted at reasonable intervals to alert the public as to the existence of any law restricting the possession of firearms on the premises.

\* \* \*

D. Subsections 12A.14.170.A.1, 12A.14.170.A.2, 12A.14.170.A.3, ((and)) 12A.14.170.A.5, 12A.14.170.A.6, 12A.14.170.A.7, and 12A.14.170.A.8 do not apply to correctional personnel or community corrections officers, as long as they are employed as such, who have completed government-sponsored law enforcement firearms training, except that subsection 12A.14.170.A.2 does apply to a correctional employee or community corrections officer who is present at a courthouse building as a party to an antiharassment protection order action or a domestic violence protection order action under chapter 7.105 or 10.99 RCW, or an action under Title 26 RCW where any party has alleged the existence of domestic violence as defined in RCW 7.105.010.

\* \* \*

Section 12. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Approved /    returned unsigned /    vetoed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)



## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>Executive Contact/Phone:</b>
Law – Criminal	James Kenny/ 684-8532	

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to the City’s criminal code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; adding a new Section 12A.06.095 to the Seattle Municipal Code; amending Sections 3.33.020, 12A.06.187, 12A.06.195, 12A.09.020, 12A.12.040, 12A.14.075, and 12A.14.170 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Sections 12A.06.045, 12A.08.120, and 12A.08.130 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**Summary and background of the Legislation:** This legislation updates Seattle’s criminal code mostly to reflect changes made to corresponding state statutes by the Legislature in 2023-2025. This is done because the State requires in RCW 39.34.180 that the City be responsible for all misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crimes occurring in the City. Pursuant to RCW 35.21.163, the penalty for City misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crimes must generally match that of State misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crimes.

The primary effects of this ordinance are to:

- Section 1. It has a technical correction to 3.33.020 updating a citation from a repealed ordinance, 12A.06.120, to a current ordinance, 12A.09.020.
- Section 2. It repeals Cyberstalking under SMC 12A.06.045 because in 2023 the Legislature merged the crimes of Cyberstalking and Stalking in RCW 9A.46.110 using Chapter 461, Laws of 2023, HB 1696, and repealed the former crime of Cyberstalking in RCW 9A.90.130. The City adopted by reference as amended the crime of Stalking in RCW 9A.46.110 through SMC 12A.09.020 in Ordinance 125881, so Cyberstalking under SMC 12A.06.045 is no longer needed because RCW 9A.46.110 now includes Cyberstalking.
- Section 3. It adds the crime of Hazing as a new section 12A.06.095, which is modeled after RCW 28B.10.901, which was amended by the Legislature in Chapter 196, Laws of 2023, HB 1002.
- Section 4. It has a technical correction to 12A.06.187 updating a citation from a repealed ordinance, 12A.06.120, to a current ordinance, 12A.09.020.
- Section 5. It has technical corrections to 12A.06.195 updating repealed ordinance citations to current ordinance citations.
- Section 6. It repeals 12A.08.120 Vehicle Prowling so that it can be replaced by adopting RCW 9A.52.100 so prolific vehicle prowlers who reach their third or subsequent offense can be prosecuted as a felony offense. This is done at the request of the KCPAO.

- Section 7. It repeals 12A.08.130, Criminal Impersonation, so that it can be replaced by adopting RCW 9A.60.045, Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, and RCW 9A.60.010, Definitions. This implements Chapter 51, Laws of 2025, SHB 1205.
- Section 8. It adopts by reference RCW 9.41.010 which the Legislature amended in 2023 to have an expansive definition of assault weapon, which is necessary to support the sale of assault weapons ban gross misdemeanor, passed by the Legislature in 2023 in Chapter 162, Laws of 2023, SHB 1240. It adopts by reference RCW 9.41.368 which is the civil infraction of failing to report a lost or stolen firearm which was passed by the Legislature in 2024 in Chapter 286, Laws of 2024, SHB 1903. It adopts by reference RCW 9.41.390 the sale of assault weapons ban which is a gross misdemeanor passed by the Legislature in 2023 in Chapter 162, Laws of 2023, SHB 1240. It adopts by reference Vehicle Prowling in the Second Degree under RCW 9A.52.100, at the request of the KCPAO. It adopts by reference RCW 9A.60.045, Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, and RCW 9A.60.010, Definitions, to implement Chapter 51, Laws of 2025, SHB 1205. It adopts by reference portions of RCW 9A.82.180 which make it a gross misdemeanor to possess up to six catalytic converters that do not contain the appropriate identification and passed by the Legislature in 2024 in Chapter 301, Laws of 2024, ESHB 2153. It adopts by reference a gross misdemeanor ban on certain animals used in traveling animal acts, which implements Chapter 116, Laws of 2025, ESB 5065.
- Section 9. It amends the crime of Disorderly Conduct on Buses under 12A.12.040 to apply to Washington State ferries to implement Chapter 234, Laws of 2025, SB 5716.
- Section 10. It amends the crime of Unlawful Use of Weapons to Intimidate Another under 12A.14.075 to include the penalty of losing one's permit to purchase firearms, effective May 1, 2027, which implements Chapter 370, Laws of 2025, ESSHB 1163.
- Section 11. It adds libraries, zoos, aquariums, transit stations, and transit facilities to the list of places where it is a gross misdemeanor to possess a weapon under 12A.14.170, which implements the Legislature's changes to RCW 9.41.300 in 2024 in Chapter 285, Laws of 2024, 2SSB 5444.

## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_X No

## 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_X No

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**

There could be some indirect cost to the Police Department, the City Attorney's office and Municipal Court in adjudicating and sentencing the new crimes.

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**

These new crimes are crimes under state law, which would be enforced in Seattle by the Police Department regardless of the legislation, so the cost to that department would not be affected by not implementing the legislation. The costs to the City Attorney's Office and Municipal Court would be avoided by not implementing the legislation. Pursuant to RCW 39.34.180, the City is responsible for all misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crimes occurring in the City.

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- a. **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?** This legislation would affect the Police Department, as officers would be enforcing these new crimes, the City Attorney's Office in prosecuting the same, and Seattle Municipal Court in adjudicating and sentencing the same.
- b. **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?** No.
- c. **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?** No.
- d. **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?** No.
- e. **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?** Unknown.
- f. **Climate Change Implications**
  - 1. **Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?** No.
  - 2. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.** No.
- g. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).** This legislation does not include a new initiative or major programmatic expansion.

**Summary Attachments:** None.

September 15, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Public Safety Committee  
**From:** Tamaso Johnson, Analyst  
**Subject:** Council Bill 121080 – 2025 Criminal ORD; Council Bill 121081 – 2025 Traffic ORD;  
Council Bill 121079 – 2025 Infraction ORD

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On September 23, 2025, the Public Safety Committee will discuss and potentially vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 121080](#), [CB 121081](#), and [CB 121079](#). These bills, which were transmitted directly from the City Attorney's Office (CAO), would make conforming changes to the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to align the City's criminal, traffic, and civil infraction codes, respectively, with recent changes to state law, and make technical corrections. Conforming legislation of this sort is routinely requested by CAO on an annual or semi-annual basis to bring SMC in line with state law and give CAO and the Seattle Municipal Court the statutory basis to implement relevant changes.

This memorandum describes the bills and outlines next steps.

### **CB 121080 – 2025 Criminal ORD**

As detailed immediately below, this legislation would make a number of substantive changes to the SMC, in addition to some technical revisions. While the Seattle Police Department has jurisdiction to investigate and enforce RCW crimes, adoption of state law crimes into SMC can further clarify this authority and more importantly enable CAO to prosecute these crimes in Seattle Municipal Court.

#### Substantive Code Changes

##### *Hazing*

This bill would add the crime of hazing to SMC. Hazing is defined, in sum, as an act affiliated with initiation into a student group "that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm" in a postsecondary educational context. Hazing would be a gross misdemeanor. The crime of hazing, originally created in RCW in 1993, was amended by the state legislature during the 2022 session and this bill would add the crime as amended to SMC.

##### *Firearm & Weapon Restrictions*

This bill would adopt various changes made to state law in recent years concerning firearms and other weapons. Generally, firearms regulation is an area of law where cities and other local government entities are preempted from enacting their own unique restrictions, but may choose to adopt changes made by the Washington State Legislature. This bill would adopt RCW 9.41.010 and 9.41.390 which, taken together, prohibit with limited exceptions the manufacture,

import, distribution, and sale of a category of firearms known as “assault weapons” defined by reference to a list of specific firearms in combination with a descriptive schema based on certain firearm features. Violations of these assault weapon provisions would be a gross misdemeanor. This bill would also create a civil infraction in the amount of \$1,000 for failing to report the theft of a firearm within 24 hours to the Seattle Police Department. Finally, the bill would also add libraries, zoos and aquariums, and transit stations and facilities to the existing list of places where weapons are prohibited. Violations of City place-based weapons restrictions would be punishable as a gross misdemeanor. Statutory changes related to firearms and other weapons described above were made to RCW by the state legislature during the 2023 and 2024 sessions.

#### *Vehicle Prowl 2*

This bill would adopt the RCW crime of vehicle prowling in the second degree into SMC. Vehicle prowling 2, unlawful entry into a vehicle (other than a motor home or boat) with the intent to commit a crime, would be a gross misdemeanor, elevated to a class C felony upon third and subsequent such offenses. This bill would also repeal the current City crime of vehicle prowling in conjunction with the above RCW adoption.

#### *Catalytic Converters*

This bill would adopt 2024 RCW changes requiring detached catalytic converters to be marked with partial vehicle identification numbers and create new gross misdemeanors for the removal of such markings as well as the possession or sale of unmarked catalytic converters, with exceptions.

#### *Disorderly Conduct on Ferries*

This bill would also adopt 2025 RCW changes adding Washington State ferries to the scope of the existing “disorderly conduct on buses” misdemeanor, a crime that encompasses a range of undesirable behavior if occurring on a public transit vehicle or at a station.

#### *Impersonation – Forged Digital Likenesses*

In addition, this bill would adopt 2025 RCW changes expanding the existing crime of criminal impersonation to cover distribution of a forged visual or audio digital likeness of another person with illegal intent. This change would repeal the existing SMC crime of criminal impersonation and replace it with adoption of the RCW crime of criminal impersonation in the second degree, which would retain the other elements of criminal impersonation beyond the new forged digital likeness provisions.

## Technical Changes

This bill would also make the following technical changes and corrections to City criminal code:

- Update a citation in Section 3.33.020, describing the jurisdiction of the Court, relating to domestic violence offenses to a current reference;
- Repeal the City crime of Cyberstalking to account for the consolidation of Stalking and Cyberstalking crimes in RCW and subsequent City adoption of this change;
- Update the crime of Interfering with the Reporting of Domestic Violence to incorporate an updated code reference; and,
- Update Section 12A.06.195 concerning weapon surrender to include corrected references to current SMC and RCW.

## **CB 121081 – 2025 Traffic ORD**

### Substantive Code Changes

#### *Covered License Plates*

This bill would update vehicle license plate requirements to prohibit the use of license plate covers. Existing SMC prohibits plate frames, holders, or other materials that “change, alter, or make a license plate [illegible],” but does not explicitly ban plate covers (e.g. tinted plastic covers commonly in use). This change would mirror a state law change adopted by the legislature in 2024 which was intended to address an increase in the use of plate covers which obscure license plate legibility by law enforcement officers and automated tolling cameras.

#### *Infraction Response Time*

Current SMC requires a person issued a traffic infraction notice to respond within 15 days. This bill would extend that response time requirement to 30 days from the date of notice. This change would mirror a state law change adopted by the legislature in 2021.

#### *Negligent Driving with Vulnerable User Victim*

This bill would establish new offenses of negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the first and second degrees. “Vulnerable user of a public way” would be defined to mean, in sum: a pedestrian; person riding an animal; or, a person operating a wheeled vehicle other than an automobile. The new first degree offense would be triggered by negligent driving that is likely to endanger a person or property, and results in the death of a vulnerable user. The second degree offense would be triggered by similar conduct that results in great or substantial bodily harm to a vulnerable user, rather than death. The new first degree offense would be a gross misdemeanor with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine and a 90 day license suspension. The new second degree offense would be a traffic infraction. These changes would mirror state law changes adopted by the legislature in 2023.

## **CB 121079 – 2025 Infraction ORD**

### Substantive Code Changes

#### *Harbor Code Violations*

The City harbor code (SMC Title 16) contains various requirements and prohibitions related to waterways in Seattle. This bill would set default penalty amounts for harbor code violations to \$125 by designating such violations as class 2 civil infractions under RCW 7.80.120. This proposal is intended to address a gap in current SMC penalty provisions which do not clearly specify a base penalty amount for harbor code violations.

#### *Littering*

The City litter code (SMC Chapter 21.36, Subchapter V) prohibits littering (improper disposal of one cubic foot or less of non-hazardous material) and defines civil penalties for such conduct (Subchapter VI). This bill would increase the default penalty amount for littering from \$50 to \$125 by designating such violations as class 2 civil infractions under RCW 7.80.120. This proposed change would conform SMC to RCW changes made by the state legislature in 2025.

### **Next Steps**

Council Bills 121080, 121081, and 121079 are intended to be heard for the first time and potentially voted on during a single meeting of the Public Safety Committee on September 23, 2025.

cc: Ben Noble, Director



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** CB 121081, **Version:** 1

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### CITY OF SEATTLE

### ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

### COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City's traffic code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; and amending Sections 11.22.080, 11.31.050, and 11.58.005 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

### BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 11.22.080 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 124686, is amended as follows:

#### 11.22.080 Vehicle license plates displayed

A. Display requirements. No person shall operate any vehicle on any street or alley unless a valid license plate or plates are attached thereon as required by RCW 46.16A.200. The vehicle license plates shall be attached conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle for which the same are issued but if only one ~~((+))~~ license plate is legally issued for any vehicle such plate shall be conspicuously attached to the rear of such vehicle. Each vehicle license plate shall be placed or hung in a horizontal position at a distance of not more than four ~~((4))~~ feet from the ground and shall be kept clean and uncovered so as to be plainly seen and read at all times; this requirement shall not apply in cases where the Washington ~~((state patrol))~~ State Patrol has granted permission to deviate therefrom, as provided in RCW 46.16A.200.

B. Unlawful acts. No person shall:

1. ~~((display))~~ Display a license plate or plates on the front or rear of any vehicle that were not issued by Washington Department of Licensing for the vehicle;
2. ~~((display))~~ Display a license plate or plates on any vehicle that have been changed, altered, or



disfigured, or have become illegible;

3. ~~((use))~~ Use license plate holders, frames, covers, or other materials that conceal, obstruct, distort, change, alter, or make a license plate or plates illegible. License plate frames may be used on license plates only if the frames do not obscure license tabs or identifying letters or numbers on the plates and the license plates can be plainly seen and read at all times;

4. ~~((operate))~~ Operate a vehicle unless a valid license plate or plates are attached as required under this ~~((section))~~ Section 11.22.080;

5. ~~((transfer))~~ Transfer a license plate or plates issued under ~~((RCW Chapter))~~ chapter 46.16A RCW between two ~~((2))~~ or more vehicles without first making application to transfer the license plates. A violation of this subsection ~~((B)(5))~~ 11.22.080.B.5 is a traffic infraction subject to a fine not to exceed ~~((five hundred dollars-))~~ \$500 ~~(( ))~~; or

6. ~~((fail))~~ Fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the registration certificate, except as authorized under this ~~((section))~~ Section 11.22.080. ~~((RCW 46.16A.200))~~

Section 2. Section 11.31.050 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 126681, is amended as follows:

**11.31.050 Response to notice of traffic infraction-Contesting determination-Hearing-Failure to appear**

A. Any person who receives a notice of traffic infraction shall respond to such notice as provided in this ~~((section))~~ Section 11.31.050 within ~~((fifteen-15))~~ 30 days of the date of the notice.

\* \* \*

Section 3. Section 11.58.005 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 126681, is amended as follows:

**11.58.005 Operating motor vehicle in a negligent manner-Penalty**

\* \* \*

C.

1. A person commits negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the first degree if he or she operates a vehicle, as defined in Section 11.14.710, in a manner that is both negligent and endangers or is likely to endanger any person or property, and he or she proximately causes the death of a vulnerable user of a public way.

2. Negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the first degree is a gross misdemeanor. The mandatory minimum fine is \$1,000, which may not be reduced. There shall be a suspension of driving privileges for 90 days, and the court shall notify the Washington State Department of Licensing of the suspension of driving privileges.

~~((1-))~~ 3. A person commits negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the second degree  
~~((with a vulnerable user victim))~~ if, under circumstances not constituting negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the first degree or negligent driving in the first degree, he or she operates a vehicle, as defined in Section 11.14.710, in a manner that is both negligent and endangers or is likely to endanger any person or property, and he or she proximately causes ~~((the death,))~~ great bodily harm~~((;))~~ or substantial bodily harm of a vulnerable user of a public way.

~~((2-))~~ 4. Negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the second degree ~~((with a vulnerable user victim))~~ is a traffic infraction and is subject to the penalties provided by RCW 46.61.526.

D. For the purposes of this Section 11.58.005:

1. "Negligent" means the failure to exercise ordinary care, and is the doing of some act that a reasonably careful person would not do under the same or similar circumstances or the failure to do something that a reasonably careful person would do under the same or similar circumstances.

2. "Exhibiting the effects of having consumed liquor, cannabis, or any drug" means that the person has the odor of liquor, cannabis, or any drug on his or her breath, or that by speech, manner, appearance, behavior, lack of coordination, or otherwise exhibits that he or she has consumed liquor, cannabis, or any drug, and either:

a. Is in possession of or in close proximity to a container that has or recently had liquor, cannabis, or any drug in it; or

b. Is shown by other evidence to have recently consumed liquor, cannabis, or any drug.

3. "Exhibiting the effects of having inhaled or ingested any chemical, whether or not a legal substance, for its intoxicating or hallucinatory effects" means that a person by speech, manner, appearance, behavior, or lack of coordination or otherwise exhibits that he or she has inhaled or ingested a chemical and either:

a. Is in possession of the canister or container from which the chemical came; or

b. Is shown by other evidence to have recently inhaled or ingested a chemical for its intoxicating or hallucinatory effects.

4. "Great bodily harm" and "substantial bodily harm" have the same meaning as provided in RCW 9A.04.110.

5. "Vulnerable user of a public way" means:

a. A pedestrian;

b. A person riding an animal; or

c. A person operating or riding any of the following on a public way:

1) A farm tractor or implement of husbandry, without an enclosed shell;

2) A bicycle;

3) An electric-assisted bicycle;

4) An electric personal assistive mobility device;

5) A moped;

6) A motor-driven cycle;

7) A motorized foot scooter; or

8) A motorcycle.

E. Any act prohibited by this ~~((section))~~ Section 11.58.005 that also constitutes a crime under any other

law of this City may be the basis of prosecution under such other law notwithstanding that it may also be the basis for prosecution under this ~~((section))~~ Section 11.58.005. ~~((RCW 46.61.525)))~~

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Approved /    returned unsigned /    vetoed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
Law – Criminal	James Kenny/ 684-8532	N/A

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to the City’s traffic code; conforming the Seattle Municipal Code with changes in state law and making technical corrections; and amending Sections 11.22.080, 11.31.050, and 11.58.005 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

#### **Summary and Background of the Legislation:**

The traffic ordinance is designed to ensure that Seattle’s traffic code matches state law, which requires, pursuant to RCW 46.08.020, that traffic laws be uniform throughout the state and prohibits a local authority from enacting or enforcing any ordinance in conflict with the provisions of state traffic laws. It is discretionary with the Council only to the extent that nobody can force the Council to enact legislation.

The primary effects of this ordinance are to:

- Section 1. It updates 11.22.080 to make it an infraction to have a covered license plate, which implements a change to RCW 46.16A.200 in Chapter 84, Laws of 2024, HB 1963.
- Section 2. It updates 11.31.050 to allow 30 days to respond to a notice of infraction instead of 15 days, which implements a change to RCW 46.63.070(1) in Chapter 240, Laws of 2021, ESSB 5226.
- Section 3. It updates 11.58.005 to add the gross misdemeanor crime of Negligent Driving with a Vulnerable User Victim in the First Degree. It clarifies that Negligent Driving with a Vulnerable User Victim in the Second Degree is a traffic infraction. It provides a definition of “vulnerable user of a public way.” All of these changes implement the new RCW 46.61.5259 and the amended RCW 46.61.526 from Chapter 471, Laws of 2023, HB 1112.

### **2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_X\_\_\_ No

### **3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_X\_\_\_ No

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs? No.**

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation? No.**

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department? This legislation would impact the Seattle Police Department and Municipal Court.**
- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation? No.**
- c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation? No.**
- d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? No.**
- e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public? This legislation does not appear to have any RSJI implications or impact any vulnerable or historically disadvantaged community.**
- f. Climate Change Implications**
  - 1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? No.**
  - 2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects. No.**
- g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s). This legislation does not include a new initiative or major programmatic expansion.**

**Summary Attachments: None.**

September 15, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Public Safety Committee  
**From:** Tamaso Johnson, Analyst  
**Subject:** Council Bill 121080 – 2025 Criminal ORD; Council Bill 121081 – 2025 Traffic ORD;  
Council Bill 121079 – 2025 Infraction ORD

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On September 23, 2025, the Public Safety Committee will discuss and potentially vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 121080](#), [CB 121081](#), and [CB 121079](#). These bills, which were transmitted directly from the City Attorney's Office (CAO), would make conforming changes to the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to align the City's criminal, traffic, and civil infraction codes, respectively, with recent changes to state law, and make technical corrections. Conforming legislation of this sort is routinely requested by CAO on an annual or semi-annual basis to bring SMC in line with state law and give CAO and the Seattle Municipal Court the statutory basis to implement relevant changes.

This memorandum describes the bills and outlines next steps.

### **CB 121080 – 2025 Criminal ORD**

As detailed immediately below, this legislation would make a number of substantive changes to the SMC, in addition to some technical revisions. While the Seattle Police Department has jurisdiction to investigate and enforce RCW crimes, adoption of state law crimes into SMC can further clarify this authority and more importantly enable CAO to prosecute these crimes in Seattle Municipal Court.

#### Substantive Code Changes

##### *Hazing*

This bill would add the crime of hazing to SMC. Hazing is defined, in sum, as an act affiliated with initiation into a student group "that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious psychological or emotional harm" in a postsecondary educational context. Hazing would be a gross misdemeanor. The crime of hazing, originally created in RCW in 1993, was amended by the state legislature during the 2022 session and this bill would add the crime as amended to SMC.

##### *Firearm & Weapon Restrictions*

This bill would adopt various changes made to state law in recent years concerning firearms and other weapons. Generally, firearms regulation is an area of law where cities and other local government entities are preempted from enacting their own unique restrictions, but may choose to adopt changes made by the Washington State Legislature. This bill would adopt RCW 9.41.010 and 9.41.390 which, taken together, prohibit with limited exceptions the manufacture,



import, distribution, and sale of a category of firearms known as “assault weapons” defined by reference to a list of specific firearms in combination with a descriptive schema based on certain firearm features. Violations of these assault weapon provisions would be a gross misdemeanor. This bill would also create a civil infraction in the amount of \$1,000 for failing to report the theft of a firearm within 24 hours to the Seattle Police Department. Finally, the bill would also add libraries, zoos and aquariums, and transit stations and facilities to the existing list of places where weapons are prohibited. Violations of City place-based weapons restrictions would be punishable as a gross misdemeanor. Statutory changes related to firearms and other weapons described above were made to RCW by the state legislature during the 2023 and 2024 sessions.

### *Vehicle Prowl 2*

This bill would adopt the RCW crime of vehicle prowling in the second degree into SMC. Vehicle prowling 2, unlawful entry into a vehicle (other than a motor home or boat) with the intent to commit a crime, would be a gross misdemeanor, elevated to a class C felony upon third and subsequent such offenses. This bill would also repeal the current City crime of vehicle prowling in conjunction with the above RCW adoption.

### *Catalytic Converters*

This bill would adopt 2024 RCW changes requiring detached catalytic converters to be marked with partial vehicle identification numbers and create new gross misdemeanors for the removal of such markings as well as the possession or sale of unmarked catalytic converters, with exceptions.

### *Disorderly Conduct on Ferries*

This bill would also adopt 2025 RCW changes adding Washington State ferries to the scope of the existing “disorderly conduct on buses” misdemeanor, a crime that encompasses a range of undesirable behavior if occurring on a public transit vehicle or at a station.

### *Impersonation – Forged Digital Likenesses*

In addition, this bill would adopt 2025 RCW changes expanding the existing crime of criminal impersonation to cover distribution of a forged visual or audio digital likeness of another person with illegal intent. This change would repeal the existing SMC crime of criminal impersonation and replace it with adoption of the RCW crime of criminal impersonation in the second degree, which would retain the other elements of criminal impersonation beyond the new forged digital likeness provisions.

## Technical Changes

This bill would also make the following technical changes and corrections to City criminal code:

- Update a citation in Section 3.33.020, describing the jurisdiction of the Court, relating to domestic violence offenses to a current reference;
- Repeal the City crime of Cyberstalking to account for the consolidation of Stalking and Cyberstalking crimes in RCW and subsequent City adoption of this change;
- Update the crime of Interfering with the Reporting of Domestic Violence to incorporate an updated code reference; and,
- Update Section 12A.06.195 concerning weapon surrender to include corrected references to current SMC and RCW.

## **CB 121081 – 2025 Traffic ORD**

### Substantive Code Changes

#### *Covered License Plates*

This bill would update vehicle license plate requirements to prohibit the use of license plate covers. Existing SMC prohibits plate frames, holders, or other materials that “change, alter, or make a license plate [illegible],” but does not explicitly ban plate covers (e.g. tinted plastic covers commonly in use). This change would mirror a state law change adopted by the legislature in 2024 which was intended to address an increase in the use of plate covers which obscure license plate legibility by law enforcement officers and automated tolling cameras.

#### *Infraction Response Time*

Current SMC requires a person issued a traffic infraction notice to respond within 15 days. This bill would extend that response time requirement to 30 days from the date of notice. This change would mirror a state law change adopted by the legislature in 2021.

#### *Negligent Driving with Vulnerable User Victim*

This bill would establish new offenses of negligent driving with a vulnerable user victim in the first and second degrees. “Vulnerable user of a public way” would be defined to mean, in sum: a pedestrian; person riding an animal; or, a person operating a wheeled vehicle other than an automobile. The new first degree offense would be triggered by negligent driving that is likely to endanger a person or property, and results in the death of a vulnerable user. The second degree offense would be triggered by similar conduct that results in great or substantial bodily harm to a vulnerable user, rather than death. The new first degree offense would be a gross misdemeanor with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine and a 90 day license suspension. The new second degree offense would be a traffic infraction. These changes would mirror state law changes adopted by the legislature in 2023.

## **CB 121079 – 2025 Infraction ORD**

### Substantive Code Changes

#### *Harbor Code Violations*

The City harbor code (SMC Title 16) contains various requirements and prohibitions related to waterways in Seattle. This bill would set default penalty amounts for harbor code violations to \$125 by designating such violations as class 2 civil infractions under RCW 7.80.120. This proposal is intended to address a gap in current SMC penalty provisions which do not clearly specify a base penalty amount for harbor code violations.

#### *Littering*

The City litter code (SMC Chapter 21.36, Subchapter V) prohibits littering (improper disposal of one cubic foot or less of non-hazardous material) and defines civil penalties for such conduct (Subchapter VI). This bill would increase the default penalty amount for littering from \$50 to \$125 by designating such violations as class 2 civil infractions under RCW 7.80.120. This proposed change would conform SMC to RCW changes made by the state legislature in 2025.

### **Next Steps**

Council Bills 121080, 121081, and 121079 are intended to be heard for the first time and potentially voted on during a single meeting of the Public Safety Committee on September 23, 2025.

cc: Ben Noble, Director



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** CB 121064, **Version:** 1

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### CITY OF SEATTLE

#### ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

#### COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE relating to removing the City residency requirement for judges pro tempore in Seattle; amending Section 3.33.140 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has amended Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.20.200 to

provide, among other things, that the Presiding Judge has the authority to appoint Municipal Court

judges pro tempore, and that the terms of office of judges pro tempore must be specified in writing; and

WHEREAS, under Washington State case law the maximum term of appointment for judges pro tempore

appointed pursuant to the authority of an individual elected official cannot extend beyond the term of office of that elected official; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 3.33.140, governing the appointment of Municipal Court judges

pro tempore, should be consistent with RCW 35.20.200 and further should clearly set forth the maximum allowable term of appointment consistent with state law; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.20.200 only applies to cities that have more than 400,000 residents and all other

municipal and district courts are authorized to use pro tem judges without a city residency requirement; and

WHEREAS, it has been increasingly difficult to find qualified pro tem judges who reside in Seattle, and

without available pro tem judges court calendars may need to be canceled; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.20.200 was revised in the 2025 Legislative Session to allow for Seattle Municipal Court

to use pro tem judges who reside outside Seattle; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 3.33.140 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 120002, is amended as follows:

**3.33.140 Judges pro tempore((-))**

A. The Presiding Municipal Court Judge shall~~((, from attorneys residing in the City and qualified to hold the position of judge of the Municipal Court as provided in RCW 35.20.170 and SMC Section 3.33.110,))~~ appoint judges pro tempore who shall act in the absence of the regular judges of the Court or in addition to the regular judges when the administration of justice and the accomplishment of the work of the Court make it necessary. The Presiding Municipal Court Judge may appoint, as judges pro tempore, any full-time King County District Court judges. The term of office for a judge pro tempore must be specified in writing and cannot exceed the term of office of the regular elected Municipal Court judges.

B. A judge pro tempore must be an elector of the state and an attorney admitted to practice law before the courts of record of the state. A judge pro tempore need not be a resident of Seattle.

C. While acting as judge of the Court, judges pro tempore shall have all of the powers of the regular judges. Before entering upon his or her duties, each judge pro tempore shall take, subscribe and file an oath as is taken by a municipal judge. Judges pro tempore shall not practice before the Municipal Court during their term of office as judges pro tempore.

D. Municipal Court Judges pro tempore shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by ordinance of the City, and such compensation shall be paid by the City except that district court judges shall not be compensated by the City other than pursuant to an interlocal agreement.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, and signed by

me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Approved /    returned unsigned /    vetoed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
Seattle Municipal Court	Gary Ireland	Linda Taylor-Manning

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to removing the City residency requirement for judges pro tempore in Seattle; amending Section 3.33.140 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** This legislation removes a residency requirement from the position of judges pro tem. The Washington state legislature adopted a change to RCW 35.20.200 that eliminates a city residency requirement for municipal courts authorized under RCW 35.20.010. Seattle is the only Washington city that utilizes a municipal court authorized under RCW 35.20.010. Other municipal and district courts are already authorized under RCW to recruit pro tem judges without a residency requirement.

The Seattle Municipal Court has had difficulty recruiting qualified pro tem judges in part because of the residency requirement. The intent of this legislation is to boost the number of pro tem judges, leading to reduced case load and time for resolution. Without an adequate pool of pro tem judges, Seattle Municipal Court must cancel or consolidate calendars, causing delays and impacting the efficient delivery of justice.

### **2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

### **3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☐ Yes ☒ No

#### **3.d. Other Impacts**

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.**

No.

**If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.**

N/A

**Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.**  
Without this legislation, the Seattle Municipal Court might continue struggling to find qualified judges pro tem.

**Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.**  
N/A

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**  
No.
- b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?**  
No.
- c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**  
No.
- d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**
  - i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**  
N/A
  - ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**
  - iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**  
N/A
- e. Climate Change Implications**
  - i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**  
N/A
  - ii. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**  
N/A



- f. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A

- g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

No.

## **5. ATTACHMENTS**

**Summary Attachments:** None.

September 2, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Public Safety Committee  
**From:** Tamaso Johnson, Analyst  
**Subject:** Council Bill 121064 – Judges Pro Tempore ORD

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On September 9, 2025, the Public Safety Committee will discuss [Council Bill \(CB\) 121064](#), request legislation from the Mayor’s Office. This bill would authorize the Seattle Municipal Court to employ judges pro tempore who reside outside the City. This change would align the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) with 2025 changes to Washington State law on this subject.

This memorandum provides background information, describes the bill, and outlines next steps.

### Background

#### Judges Pro Tempore

A judge pro tempore, or more commonly “pro tem” judge, is a judicial officer who serves in an interim or substitute capacity for an elected or appointed judge in circumstances where the judge cannot be present at a legal proceeding. Judicial absences due to illness, paid time off, or other duties necessitate the use of pro tem judges in order to maintain regular operations of a court. The Municipal Court recruits dedicated pro tem judges for this purpose, in addition to occasionally utilizing Court magistrates (appointed judicial officers who primarily handle infractions) as pro tem judges when other pro tem judges are not available. Using magistrates as pro tem judges has a negative impact on the Court infraction calendar, which can result in service reductions or delays that may reduce the quality of experience for Court users.

#### State Law Requirements

Washington State law governing municipal courts contains specific statutory provisions that apply only to cities with over 400,000 residents, which currently only affect the City of Seattle. Until recently, state law required pro tem judges appointed by the Seattle Municipal Court to reside within City limits—a requirement no other municipal court in the state was subject to.<sup>1</sup> During the 2025 session the Washington State legislature passed [House Bill 1112](#), which recently went into effect, repealing the city residency requirement for pro tem judges in cities with a population of more than 400,000. The Municipal Court has had challenges recruiting pro tem judges within the City in recent years and is hopeful that this state law change, and accompanying SMC change proposed in this ordinance, will increase recruitment of pro tem judges and help alleviate recent related judicial staffing challenges.

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<sup>1</sup> [RCW 35.20.200](#)

**CB 121064 – Judges Pro Tempore ORD**

This bill would align the SMC with relevant changes made to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) earlier this year, removing the City residency requirement for pro tem judges in Municipal Court. This bill, following amended state law, would require Municipal Court pro tem judges to be both eligible to vote in Washington State and be an attorney admitted to practice law in the state. This proposed change to the SMC is necessary to provide the Municipal Court with the authority to implement the recent state law change described in this memo. There is no fiscal impact associated with implementing this legislation.

**Next steps**

CB 121064 is scheduled for a second hearing and potential vote in the Public Safety Committee on September 23, 2025.

cc: Ben Noble, Director

# Seattle Municipal Court

## Update for Seattle City Council

Public Safety Committee  
September 9, 2025

Anita Crawford-Willis, Presiding Judge  
Josh Sattler, Court Administrator



# Seattle Municipal Court

- The judicial branch of Seattle City government.
- Authorized under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.20.
- Adjudicates misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses, infractions, and civil violations under the Seattle Municipal Code and Revised Code of Washington statutes.
- 7 elected judges, 5 appointed magistrates, 4 service areas.



*Seattle Municipal Court's mission is to provide a forum to resolve alleged violations of the law in a respectful, independent and impartial manner.*



# Judges Pro Tempore

- Often shortened to “pro tem judge”, an attorney appointed to serve as a temporary judge when an elected judge is unavailable due to illness, absence, or disqualification.
- Pro tem judges hold all the powers of a duly elected judge while serving and take an oath of office for the same term as elected judges.
- SMC 3.33.140 requires city residency for pro tem judges.



# Ordinance 121064 – Judges Pro Tempore

- Removes city residency requirement for pro tem judges.
- In 2025, Washington State legislature changed RCW eliminating city residency requirement for municipal courts authorized under RCW 35.20.010.
- Seattle Municipal Court is the only court authorized under RCW 35.20.010.
- Other municipal and district courts are already authorized to recruit pro tem judges without a residency requirement.
- SMC Magistrates are already able to serve as pro tem judge under SMC 3.33.150 without city residency requirement.

# Why this change matters

- ✓ Without pro tem coverage, SMC calendars are canceled or consolidated, causing delays and impacting the efficient delivery of justice.
- ✓ Court service impacts: delays in infraction hearings and cancellation of debt reduction hearings by using magistrates in formal court instead of infractions.
- ✓ Increasingly more difficult to recruit qualified pro tem judges who reside in city limits.
- ✓ There is no rational justification for imposing the added burden of requiring city residence for pro tem judges on only one municipal court in our state.



# Seattle Municipal Court Updates

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TECH STABILIZATION & DATA  
EXCHANGE IN PLACE WITH CITY  
ATTORNEY

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ADDED MARSHAL STAFFING

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LAUNCH OF DRUG PROSECUTION  
ALTERNATIVE





# Thank you and Questions?

[www.seattle.gov/courts](http://www.seattle.gov/courts)



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Inf 2750, **Version:** 1

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Community Safety Initiative Update



# 2025 Community Safety RFP

Tanya Kim, Human Services Department (HSD)

Erika Pablo, Human Services Department

Owen Kajfasz, Human Services Department

Dr. Lee Hunt, Seattle Police Department



# Agenda

1. One Seattle Restoration Framework
2. Community Safety Request for Proposal (RFP)
3. Questions

# One Seattle Restoration Framework

## Our Vision

The **One Seattle Restoration Framework** is a comprehensive approach to creating a safer Seattle. It sets the City's north star as safety for every person in every neighborhood and charts an actionable path to address the very real challenges we face through investments, innovations, partnerships, and new and expanded programs.

★ To achieve this vision, the City will focus on 6 key strategies

1 Reduce Gun Violence >

2 Prevent and Reduce High-Impact Crime >

3 Respond to 9-1-1 Calls Efficiently and Appropriately >

4 Confront the Opioid Crisis with a Public Health and Safety Approach >

5 Activate and Enhance Neighborhoods >

6 Tackle the Root Causes and Impacts of Violence >

# Community Safety RFP: Background

## Research

- Site visits with other cities
- Technical materials from DOJ, Johns Hopkins, etc.
- Technical advisors (e.g., Cities United)
- Community feedback

## Infrastructure

- Expanded data and evaluation capabilities within HSD
- Developing a database to track participant referrals, services, and progress
- Committing to have an external evaluator

## Coordination

- Partnering with SPS, DEEL, SPD for data and policy analysis
- Developing cohesive referral process for community, schools, SPD
- Implementing a provider network model to include all contracted agencies

## Accountability

- Aligned to the One Seattle Restoration Framework
- Developing shared contract measures
- Implementing new workforce development standards and support



# Community Safety RFP: What's New

## Current

1. Portfolio includes disparate contracts from direct adds and 2019 RFP
2. No single coordinating network/referral process
3. Met emerging needs informed by evidence-based practices
4. Place-based interventions are in Central District, Southwest Seattle, and Southeast Seattle



## 2026

1. Consolidate community safety contracts under one model and shared outcomes
2. Coordinate and align key partners – DEEL, SPD, SPS, Provider Network (all contracted providers), etc.
3. Informed by evolving evidence-based practices and other successful models across the country
4. Committing to external evaluation
5. Expanding to North Seattle



# 2025 Community Safety RFP: Guidelines

HSD will invest in services across a continuum of prevention, intervention, and restoration strategies with the goal of further reducing gun violence.

- **Funding Available:** Up to \$14.7 million
- **Priority & Focus Population:** Youth and adults (ages 10-35) and their families impacted by and/or involved in gun violence in Seattle, and those of Black/African American/African Descent
- **Place-based Service Areas:**
  - North Seattle
  - Southwest Seattle
  - Central District
  - Southeast Seattle

# 2025 Community Safety RFP: Guidelines

Lasting community safety cannot be achieved through a single approach, therefore, this RFP will invest in a service model comprised of the following three strategies:

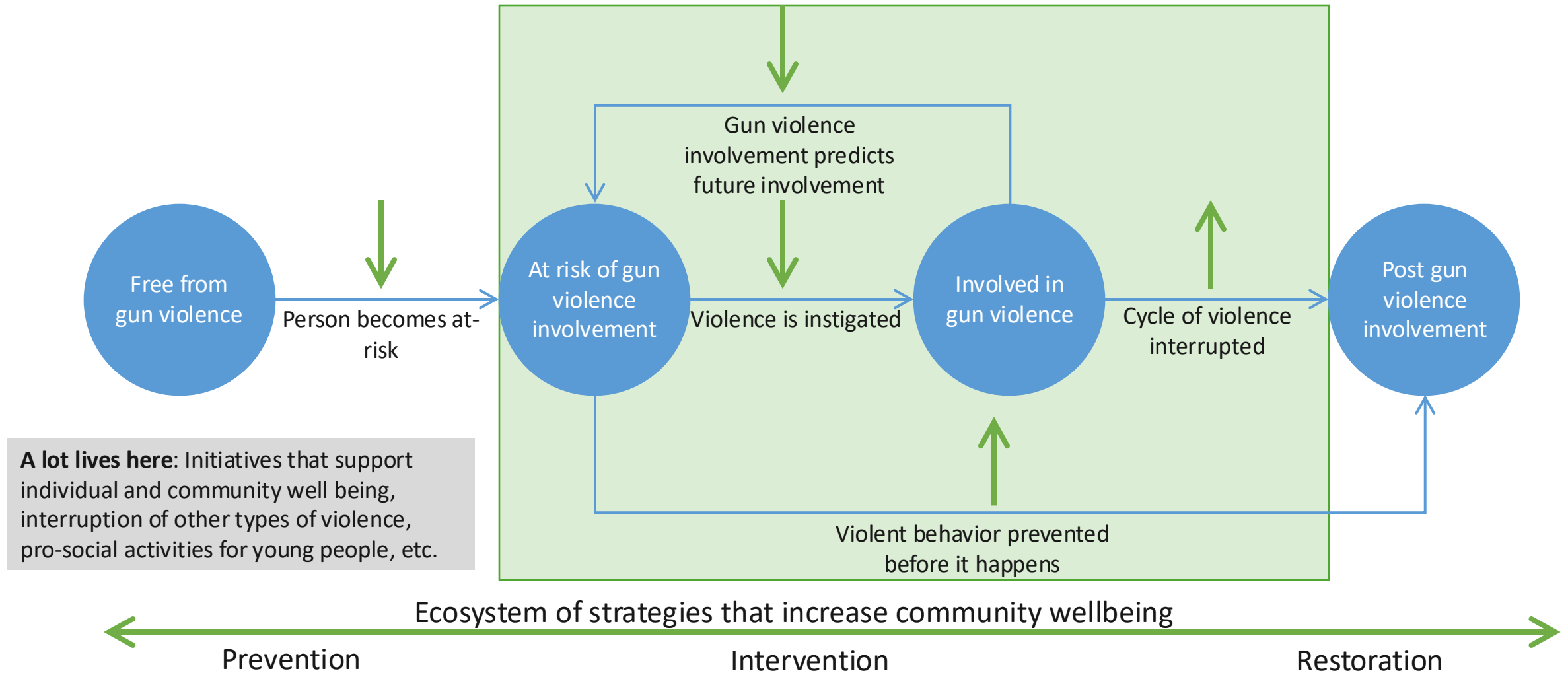
## Strategic Investment Areas

1. Intervention Services
2. School Safety Services
3. Supportive Services

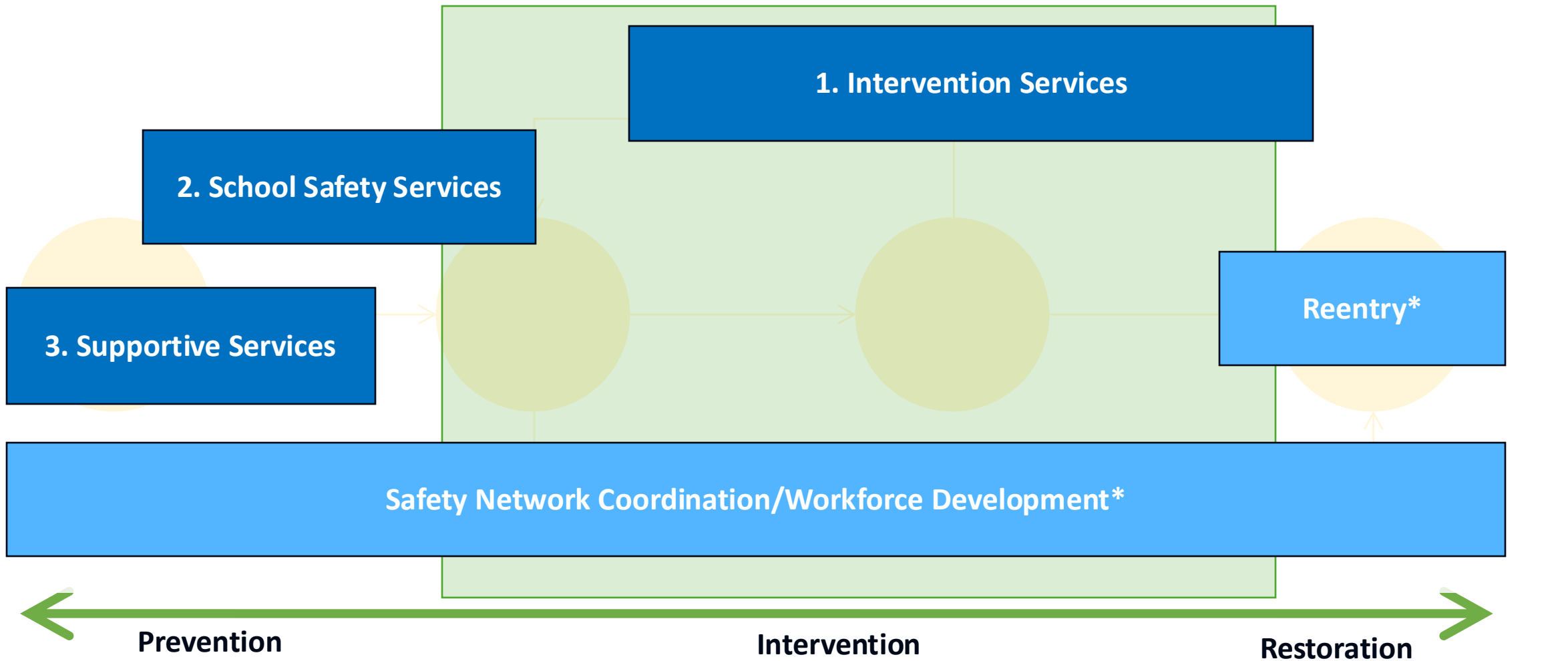
## Outcomes

- Decreased involvement in gun violence
- Increased sense of safety
- Increased sense of wellbeing
- Students are safer at school

# Community Safety Model



# Community Safety RFP Strategies



\*separate process

# 1. Intervention Services

- Hospital-based intervention
- Intensive individual services
- Place-based interventions

John lives in Southeast Seattle. John's close friend is shot outside his home and transported to Harborview Medical Center in serious condition. At the hospital, John expresses a strong desire for revenge, setting off a series of interventions.

John is immediately connected with a conflict resolution team in Southeast Seattle, to help him work through his anger. John's case manager provides ongoing mental health support as he continues to process the shooting. Assistance with food, housing and other basic needs continue so John can maintain stability in his life at home and school.



## 2. School Safety Services

- Onsite safety teams
- Safe passages
- Case management
- Family resource fund

Paige attends one of the 11 schools that partner with the City on **School Safety**.

At school, a safety specialist helps mediate a spiraling conflict between Paige and another student. That worker also gets Paige extra food to take home over the weekend and connects her to after-school activities. A teacher tells Paige about the safe passages program, and she and a friend check in with the safety specialists and other students from the neighborhood.

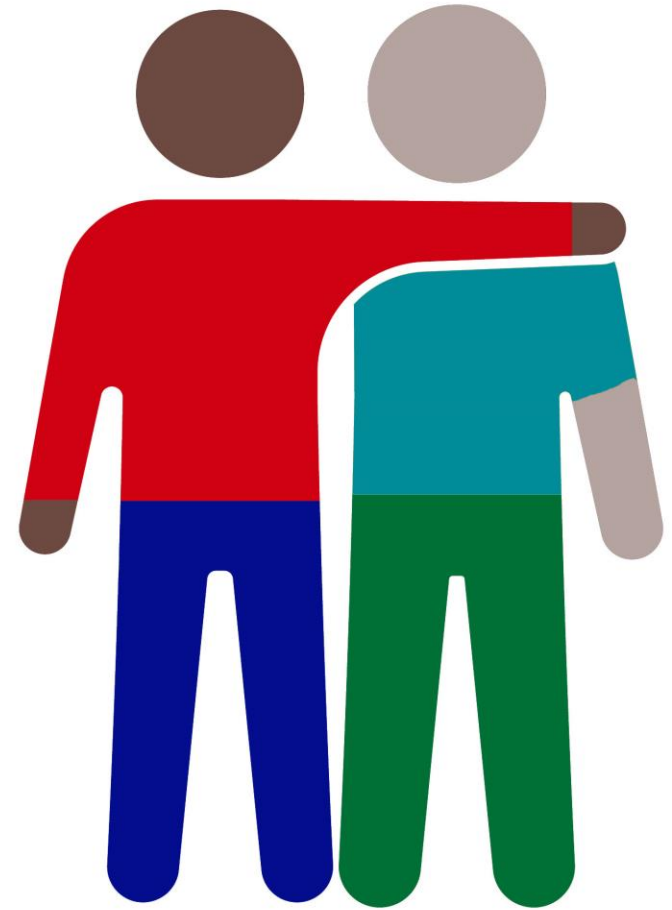


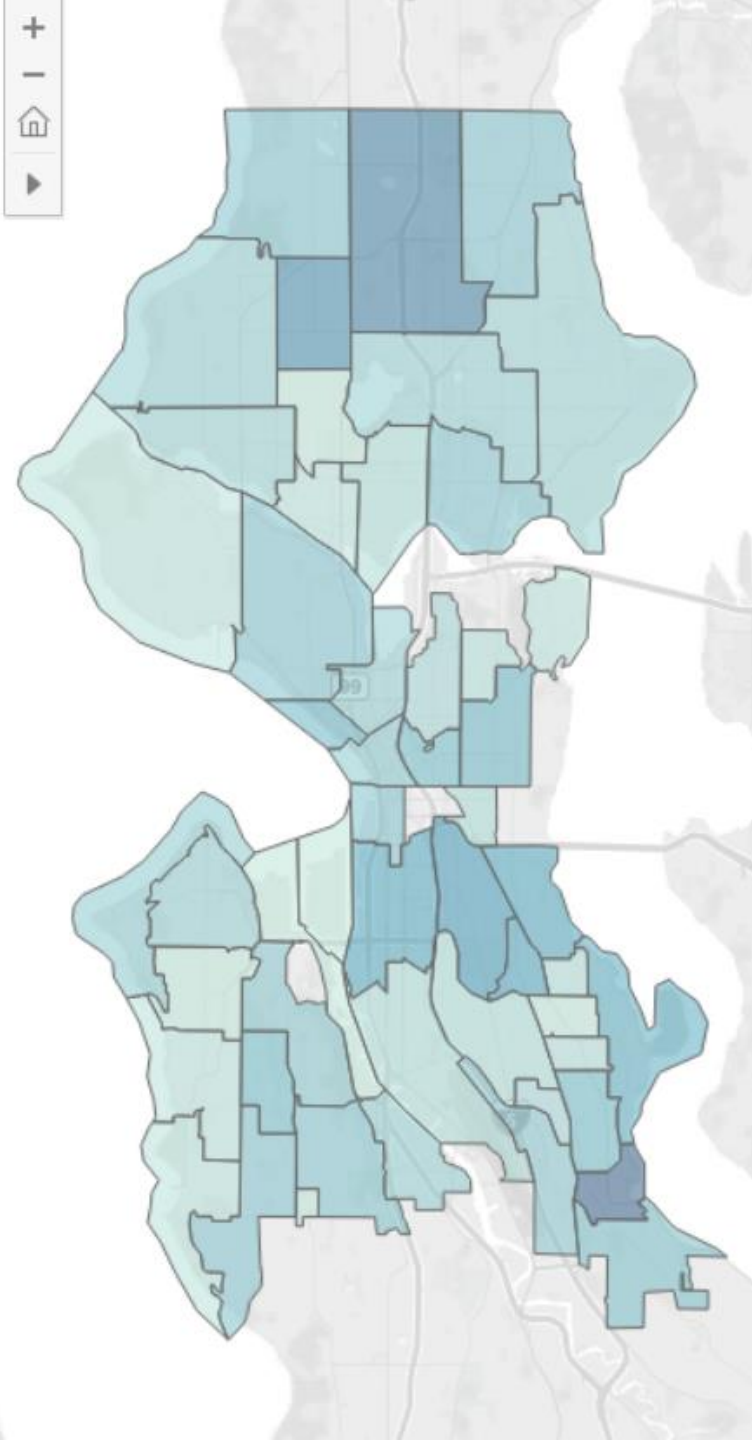
### 3. Supportive Services

- Mentorship/coaching
- Peer support
- Legal aid
- Therapy
- Resource navigation
- Food/rent assistance

Jamie is a young adult who lives in a neighborhood impacted by gun violence. He doesn't have a weapon, but some of his peers do, and he has considered obtaining a gun for protection. Jamie has a close relative who survived a shooting and is struggling.

**Supportive Services** will help Jamie maintain a sense of stability and avoid becoming involved in gun violence.



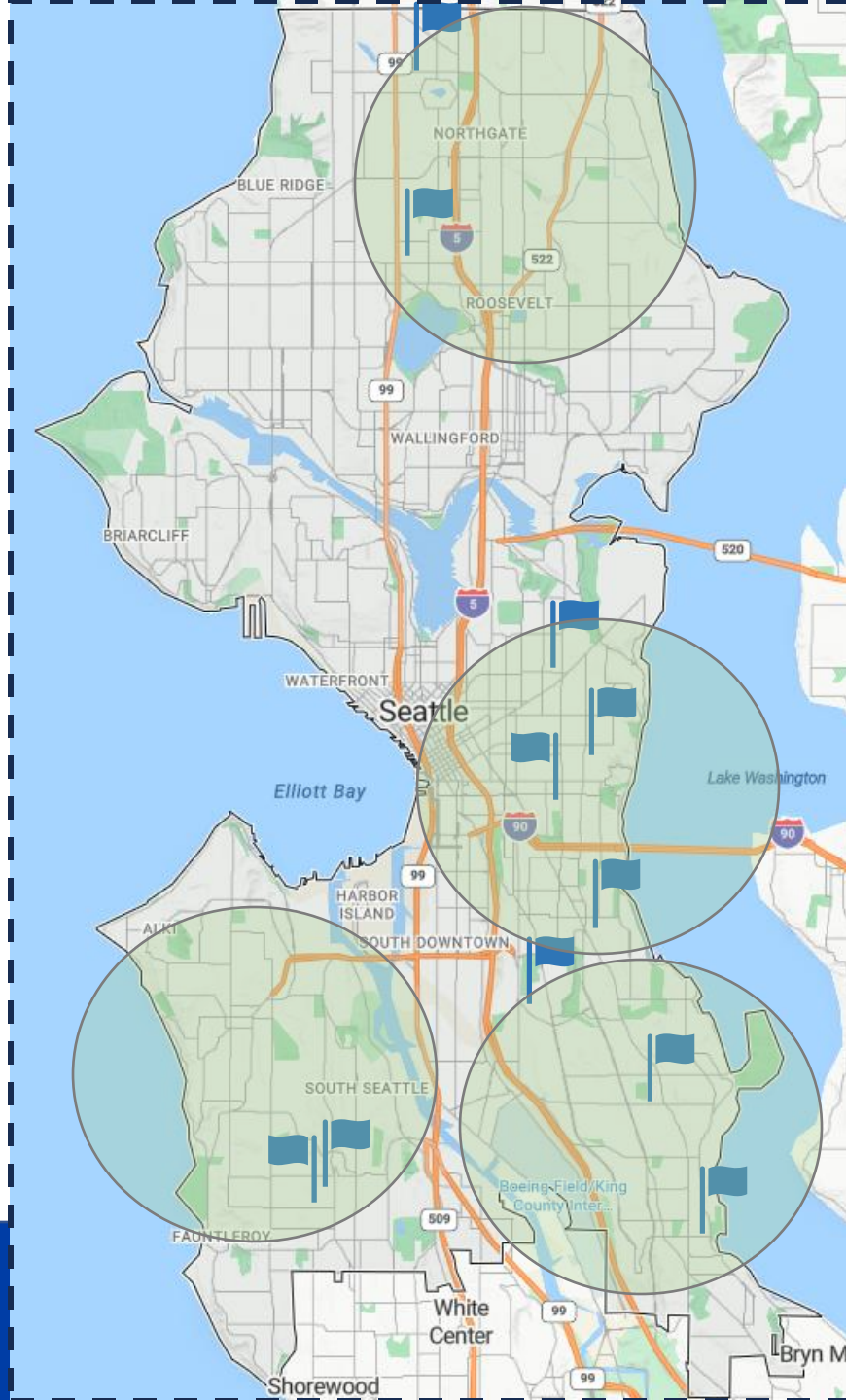


# Shootings & Shots Fired in 2025\*

- 456 occurrences this year, down 17% from this time last year
- Shots fired are not uniformly distributed
- Highest counts in
  - Rainier Beach and Northgate/Aurora areas followed by Delridge/Southwest Seattle



# The Distribution of Community Safety Services Across Seattle



## 1. Intervention Services

- Hospital-based intervention
- Intensive individual services
- Place-based services

## 2. School Safety Services

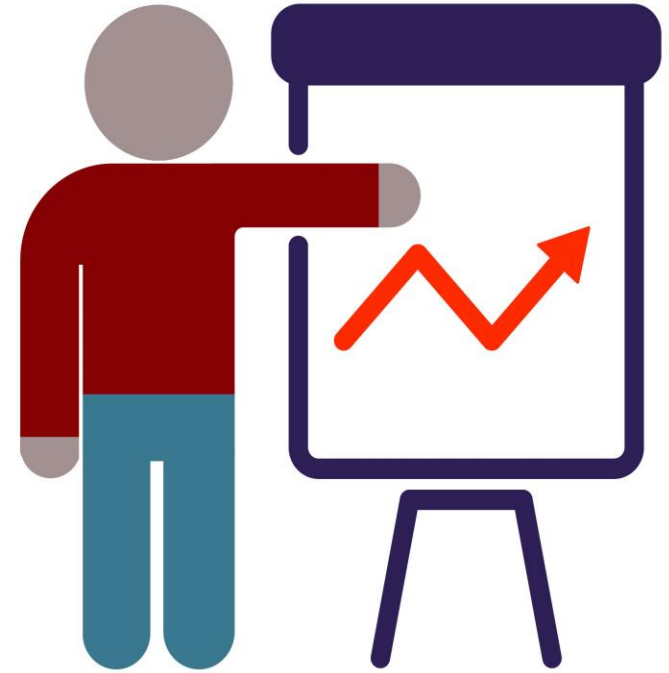
## 3. Supportive Services

# Safety Network Coordination & Workplace Development

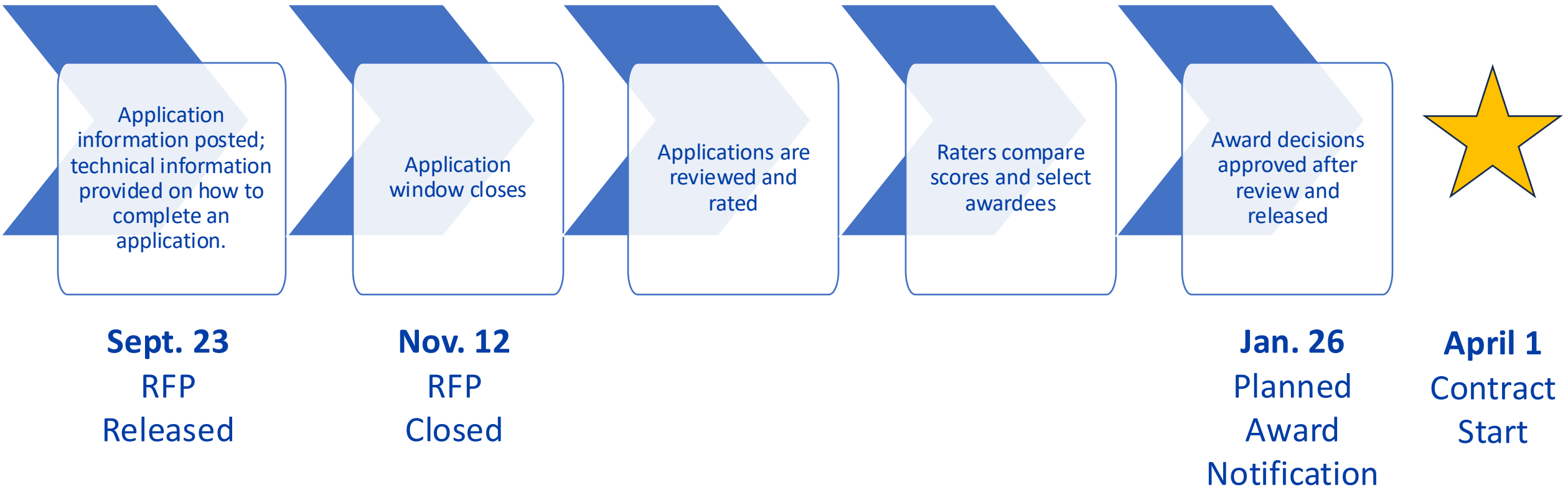
- Training certification
- Information-sharing
- Referral support
- Technical assistance
- Skills development

Through **Safety Network Coordination & Workforce Development**, those working to keep Seattle safe have training/certification, information-sharing and referral support, and technical assistance to professionalize the workforce and build up skills.

This holistic approach also means that each mentor working with John, Paige, and Jamie know what resources their families have accessed and what further supports are available through other funded agencies.



# RFP Process & Timeline\*



*\*HSD reserves the right to change any dates in the 2025 Community Safety RFP timeline*



# Questions