

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104



Journal of the Proceedings of the Seattle City Council

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, City Hall

600 4th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

City Council

Sara Nelson, Council President

Joy Hollingsworth, Member

Robert Kettle, Member

Cathy Moore, Member

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Member

Maritza Rivera, Member

Rob Saka, Member

Mark Solomon, Member

Dan Strauss, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8809; Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov

A. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council of The City of Seattle met in the Council Chamber in City Hall in Seattle, Washington, on February 11, 2025, pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m., with Council President Nelson presiding.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Moore, Nelson, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

C. PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Donald Cassell Sr.
- Gabriel Jones
- Philip Carbaugh
- Vick Amole
- Henry Keene
- Howard Gale
- Flora
- Anneka Herrin
- Matt Offenbacher
- MJ Jurgensen
- Garrett Plescow Moore
- Alex Tsimerman
- Sage Eidee
- Esther Jang
- Oliver Miska
- Tim Marrinan
- David Haines
- Robert Engel
- Mike Asai
- Leslie Matthis
- Valerie Schloredt
- Michael Mellini
- Skyler Mock
- Bennett Haselton
- Monsieree de Castro
- Nick Larsen
- Anda Roselle

E. ADOPTION OF INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL CALENDAR:

[IRC 466](#) **February 11, 2025**

By unanimous consent, the Introduction & Referral Calendar (IRC) was adopted.

In Favor: 9 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Moore, Nelson, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

Opposed: None

F. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

By unanimous consent, the Agenda was adopted.

G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion was made by Council President Nelson, duly seconded and carried, to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Journal:

- 1. [Min 506](#) February 4, 2025

The Minutes were adopted on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Minutes (Min):

In Favor: 9 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Moore, Nelson, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

Opposed: None

Bills:

- 2. [CB 120940](#) **AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of January 27, 2025, through January 31, 2025, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.**

The Council Bill (CB) was passed on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 9 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Moore, Nelson, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

Opposed: None

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

CITY COUNCIL:

- 1. [CB 120937](#) **AN ORDINANCE relating to taxes; creating a new sales and use tax deferral for the conversion of underutilized commercial property to housing; and adding a new Chapter 5.75 to the Seattle Municipal Code.**

Motion was made by Council President Nelson and duly seconded to pass Council Bill 120937.

The Motion carried, the Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 9 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Moore, Nelson, Rinck, Rivera, Saka,
Solomon, Strauss

Opposed: None

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

2. [CB 120916](#) **AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Police Department; mandating that the Police Department adopt and maintain crowd management policies that prohibit the use of less lethal tools in crowd management settings unless specific facts and circumstances are occurring or about to occur that create an imminent risk of physical injury to any person or significant property damage; and repealing Section 3.28.146 of the Seattle Municipal Code and Ordinance 126422.**

The Committee recommends that City Council pass as amended the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 3 - Kettle, Saka, Nelson

Opposed: 1 - Moore

Abstain: 1 - Hollingsworth

ACTION 1:

By unanimous consent, the Council Rules were suspended to allow Greg Doss, Council Central Staff, to address the Council.

ACTION 2:

Motion was made by Councilmember Kettle and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 120916, as presented on Attachment 1 on the Minutes.

ACTION 3:

Motion was made by Councilmember Moore and duly seconded to amend the amendment, Section 2.H., first paragraph, as shown in the underlined and strike through language below:

~~H. Police Department policy shall prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless the Mayor has issued a proclamation of civil emergency pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 10.02. Additionally, Police Department (SPD) policy shall prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless specific facts and circumstances establish an imminent threat of violence against persons or significant property damage.~~

Police Department policy shall prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless the Mayor has issued a proclamation of civil emergency pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 10.02, and provided authorization to use blast balls. If a President Pro Tem is acting as Mayor, then the authorization shall come from the Chief of Police.

Additionally, Police Department policy shall prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless specific facts and circumstances establish an imminent threat of violence against persons or significant property damage.

The Motion failed by the following vote:

In favor: 3 - Hollingsworth, Moore, Rinck

Opposed: 6 - Kettle, Nelson, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

ACTION 4:

Motion was made by Councilmember Kettle, duly seconded and carried, to amend the amendment, Section 2.H., first paragraph, as shown in the underlined and strike through language below:

~~H. Police Department policy shall prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless the Mayor has issued a proclamation of civil emergency pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 10.02. Additionally, Police Department (SPD) policy shall prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless specific facts and circumstances establish an imminent threat of violence against persons or significant property damage.~~

Police Department (SPD) policy shall prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless the Mayor has issued a proclamation of civil emergency pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 10.02. Additionally, Police Department policy shall prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless: 1) specific facts and circumstances establish an imminent threat of violence against persons or significant property damage, and 2) use of blast balls is authorized by the Chief of Police.

ACTION 5:

Motion was made by Councilmember Moore and duly seconded to amend the amendment, Section 2.H., third paragraph, as shown in the underlined and strike through language below:

~~When used for crowd movement or dispersal purposes, Police Department policy shall reflect that blast balls shall may be deployed, when safe and feasible, and shall be deployed consistent with training, away from people in an open space to mitigate against the risk of injury to a~~

~~person.~~

When used for crowd movement or dispersal purposes, Police Department policy shall reflect that blast balls shall not be deployed directly into a crowd. Blast balls shall only be deployed underhand using a bowling motion, in an open space away from people. In cases of individual interdiction, when reasonable, necessary, and proportional to address immediate threats to life safety, officers may deploy blast balls overhand and near a person.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

In favor: 7 - Hollingsworth, Moore, Nelson, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: 2 - Kettle, Solomon

ACTION 6:

The Motion in Action 2 as amended was restated and it carried with a unanimous vote of Councilmembers in favor.

ACTION 7:

Motion was made by Councilmember Moore and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 120916 by adding a new recital before the enacting clause as shown in the underlined language below:

WHEREAS, the Community Police Commission indicated in a January 8, 2025 letter to the City Council that "blast balls, as used in Seattle over the last decade, have a demonstrated track record when used according to past policy of inflicting injury, including serious injury, to individuals including bystanders, journalists, lawful demonstrators and in at least one instance, a police officer, when past policy intended to reduce the risk of such injury but was unable to achieve that outcome;"

The Motion carried by the following vote:

In favor: 5 - Hollingsworth, Moore, Rinck, Rivera, Saka

Opposed: 4 - Kettle, Nelson, Solomon, Strauss

ACTION 8:

Motion was made by Councilmember Moore and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 120916, by adding a new paragraph at the end of Section 2, as shown in the underlined language below:

The Police Department's mutual aid policy (SPD 16.240) and interim crowd management policy (SPD 14.090) shall prohibit the department's Incident Commanders from assigning to a crowd management role any mutual aid officer who is unable or unwilling to comply with policy 14.090. The Police Department may deploy mutual aid officers for any other purpose.

The Motion failed by the following vote:

In favor: 2 - Moore, Rinck

Opposed: 7 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Nelson, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

ACTION 9:

Motion was made by Councilmember Moore and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 120916, Section 7, as shown in the underlined and strike through language below:

Section 7. Prior to ~~((authorizing))~~ altering its policy to authorize the use of any less lethal weapon type for crowd management purposes that is not currently authorized in SPD policy as of the effective date of this ordinance or lowering the threshold for issuing an order to disperse or using reasonable, necessary, and proportional force to move or disperse a crowd, the Police Department shall notify the Council ~~((Public Safety Committee, or its successor Committee))~~ , provide a copy of the proposed policy, and report on:

* * *

A. A proposed Police Department policy change covered by this section shall not take effect if the City Council enacts a resolution of disapproval.

B. For the purposes of this section, the term "resolution of disapproval" means a resolution, introduced in the period beginning on the date on which a policy and report under this section are received by the City Council and ending 120 days thereafter, indicating that the City Council disapproves the policy submitted by the Police Department and such policy shall have no force or effect.

C. If the City Council does not enact a resolution of disapproval, a Police Department policy submitted under this section shall take effect 120 days

after the date on which the City Council receives the policy and report required by this section.

The Motion failed by the following vote:

In favor: 3 - Hollingsworth, Moore, Rinck

Opposed: 6 - Kettle, Nelson, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

ACTION 10:

Motion was made by Councilmember Rinck and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 120916, by adding a new Section 8 and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly, as shown in the underlined language below:

Section 8. The purpose statement for Seattle Police Department Policy 14.090-POL-1 - Crowd Management, Intervention, and Control, shall be amended to include a statement that a fundamental function of the role of police in all crowd management settings is to, whenever necessary, safe and feasible, identify and clearly communicate safe entry and exit points for individuals assembled in crowds as well as individuals passing by the area, living in the area, or working in the area.

The Motion failed by the following vote:

In favor: 3 - Moore, Rinck, Saka

Opposed: 6 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Nelson, Rivera, Solomon, Strauss

ACTION 11:

Motion was made by Councilmember Rinck and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 120916, by adding a new Section 8 and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly, as shown in the underlined language below:

Section 8. A person shall have a right of action against the City for physical injuries proximately caused by the use of less lethal weapons in violation of Seattle Police Department Policy 14.090 - Crowd Management, Intervention, and Control. A person who, in the judgment of a reasonable officer, commits a criminal offense at or immediately prior to the use of less lethal force may not recover under this section.

Absent evidence establishing a greater amount of damages, the damages payable to an individual for injuries proximately caused in violation of this

section shall be \$10,000. This does not preclude any other legal recovery or process available to a person under federal and state law.

The Motion failed by the following vote:

In favor: 2 - Moore, Rinck

Opposed: 7 - Hollingsworth, Kettle, Nelson, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

The Council Bill (CB) was passed as amended by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 6 - Kettle, Nelson, Rivera, Saka, Solomon, Strauss

Opposed: 3 - Hollingsworth, Moore, Rinck

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

There were none.

J. ADOPTION OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

By unanimous consent, Councilmember Solomon was excused from the March 4, 2025, City Council meeting.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Phillip Wood-Smith, Deputy City Clerk

Signed by me in Open Session, upon approval of the Council, on February 25, 2025.

Sara Nelson, Council President of the City Council

Attachment: Att 1 - Action 2 of CB 120916