

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Agenda

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 9:30 AM

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

Robert Kettle, Chair Rob Saka, Vice-Chair Joy Hollingsworth, Member Cathy Moore, Member Sara Nelson, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8807; Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov

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SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee Agenda March 25, 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

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.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Details on how to provide Public Comment are listed below:

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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. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

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. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

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Please submit written comments to all Councilmembers four hours prior to the meeting at Council@seattle.gov or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated

- A. Call To Order
- B. Approval of the Agenda
- C. Public Comment
- D. Items of Business
- **1.** CB 120956

AN ORDINANCE relating to the regulation of after-hours nightlife lounges; defining after-hours nightlife lounges; establishing operational and safety requirements for such businesses; describing enforcement mechanisms; and adding a new Chapter 10.10 to the Seattle Municipal Code.

<u>Supporting</u>

Documents:

Summary and Fiscal Note

Central Staff Memo

City Attorney's Office Presentation

Briefing and Discussion (60 minutes)

Presenters: Erika Santana and Caroline Escatell, Community

Advocates; Scott Lindsay, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office;

Tamaso Johnson and Ketil Freeman, Council Central Staff

2. Res 32167

A RESOLUTION acknowledging that Seattle residents, workers, students, and visitors deserve to be safe and feel safe; recognizing and appreciating first responders from the Seattle Police Department, Seattle Fire Department, and the Community Assisted Response and Engagement Department; affirming the City's obligations to fully support, train, and equip first responders; committing to a diversified public safety response system; acknowledging the City's actions to reform the Police Department under the federal Consent Decree; committing to resolve the remaining issues of the Consent Decree; and affirming the essential services provided by the Police Department.

Supporting

Documents: Summary and Fiscal Note

Central Staff Memo

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote (30 minutes)

Agenda

Presenter: Greg Doss, Council Central Staff

E. Adjournment

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL



Legislation Text

File #: CB 120956, Version: 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _	
COUNCIL BILL	

- AN ORDINANCE relating to the regulation of after-hours nightlife lounges; defining after-hours nightlife lounges; establishing operational and safety requirements for such businesses; describing enforcement mechanisms; and adding a new Chapter 10.10 to the Seattle Municipal Code.
- WHEREAS, Donald "Donnie" Chin, the director of the International District Emergency Center was shot and killed at approximately 3 a.m. on July 23, 2015, while trying to protect his community from shootings and fight disturbances connected to after-hours nightlife activity in the International District; and
- WHEREAS, Nadia Kassa, Jonathan Bishu, and Trevis Bellard were killed and six more were injured at approximately 4:30 a.m. on August 19, 2023, in a shooting at an after-hours nightlife lounge on Rainier Avenue South; and
- WHEREAS, Francisco Escatell was killed at approximately 3 a.m. on August 17, 2024, in a shooting inside of an after-hours nightlife lounge in the SODO neighborhood; and
- WHEREAS, over the past decade, there have been dozens of shootings and homicides that have occurred in connection with after-hours nightlife lounges that operate between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.; and
- WHEREAS, the Seattle Police Department reports that nightlife-related shootings, particularly in connection with after-hours nightlife lounges, account for over ten percent of all shootings in the City; and
- WHEREAS, some of these after-hours nightlife lounges reportedly serve alcohol without a liquor license from the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board; and
- WHEREAS, The City of Seattle regulates businesses as an exercise of its police power to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety, and welfare; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Chapter 10.10 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

Chapter 10.10 AFTER-HOURS NIGHTLIFE LOUNGES

10.10.010 Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter 10.10:

"After-hours nightlife lounge" means a business, nonprofit, or club establishment open between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. and whose purposes in those hours include socializing and either smoking or dancing. "After-hours nightlife lounge" does not include businesses whose principal purpose between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. is operating as a restaurant; businesses with an all-ages dance license issued under Chapter 6.295; businesses with an adult entertainment premises license issued under Chapter 6.270; or theater and spectator sports facilities as defined in Section 23.84A.010.

"Director" means the Director of Finance and Administrative Services.

"Liquor" has the same meaning as in chapter 66.04 RCW.

"Restaurant" means a food business with an active permit from Public Health - Seattle & King County that operates at the same location for more than 21 consecutive days.

"Written safety plan" means a written document produced by an after-hours nightlife lounge operator that includes at minimum the following information about the lounge:

- 1. The number and location of all security personnel;
- 2. The after-hours nightlife lounge's identification checking and patron search procedures;
- 3. Procedures for ensuring that only persons 21 years or older are served alcohol;
- 4. The after-hours nightlife lounge's procedures for handling violent incidents, other emergencies, and calling the Seattle Police Department;
- 5. A description of the training provided or completed by security and other personnel, including conflict de-escalation training;

- 6. The after-hours nightlife lounge's procedures for crowd control and preventing overcrowding; and
- 7. Current contact information for the person or position responsible for addressing safety, security, or City Code related complaints by patrons or neighborhood residents.

10.10.020 General provisions

- A. No after-hours nightlife lounge may:
- 1. Operate without a valid liquor license with an extended hours added activity issued pursuant to chapter 66.24 RCW;
 - 2. Be open between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m;
 - 3. Sell, give, or otherwise supply liquor to any person between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m; or
 - 4. Allow the consumption of liquor on the premises between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.
 - B. An after-hours nightlife lounge shall:
- 1. Obtain and comply with all other required state and City permits and licenses necessary for operation of the establishment;
- 2. Employ at least two security personnel during operating hours between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. to maintain order and ensure compliance with the law. All security personnel must have received formal training in crowd control and event management;
- 3. Operate video surveillance at each point of entry and maintain all recordings for at least 96 hours;
- 4. Take steps such as metal detectors, metal-detecting wands, or pat-downs to detect weapons and prevent them from entering the premises; and
 - 5. Prepare a written safety plan:
- a. After-hours nightlife lounge operators shall file their written safety plans with the Director, who shall distribute them to the Chief of Police. For existing after-hours nightlife lounges, safety

plans shall be filed within 45 days of the effective date of this ordinance. New after-hours nightlife lounges shall file safety plans no later than the date they open to the public.

b. After-hours nightlife lounges subject to this Chapter 10.10 shall have an updated copy of their safety plan reviewed by personnel employed by the after-hours nightlife lounge. The safety plan shall be made available upon request by City nightlife enforcement staff, patrons, or neighborhood residents.

c. After-hours nightlife lounge operators shall file an updated written safety plan annually with the Director. If there have been no material changes to an after-hours nightlife lounge's programming, operation, ownership, or size, the updated written safety plan may take the form of a letter from the after-hours nightlife lounge operator to the Director certifying that there have been no such material changes.

C. All peace officers of the City and the Director shall have free access to public areas of after-hours nightlife lounges when guests, patrons, or club members are present for the purpose of inspection and to enforce compliance with the provisions of this Chapter 10.10.

10.10.030 Penalties

A. A violation of Section 10.10.020 shall constitute a civil violation and shall be enforced by the Director under the citation provisions set forth in this Section 10.10.030.

B. Citation

1. If after investigation the Director determines that a person has violated or failed to comply with Section 10.10.020, the Director shall issue a citation to the person responsible for the violation. The citation shall include: (1) the name and address of the person to whom the citation is issued; (2) a reasonable description of the location of the property on which the violation occurred; (3) a separate statement of each standard or requirement violated; (4) the date of the violation; (5) a statement that the person cited must respond to the citation within 15 days after service; (6) a space for entry of the applicable penalty; (7) a statement that a response must be sent to the Hearing Examiner and received not later than 5 p.m. on the day the response is due; (8) the name, address, and phone number of the Hearing Examiner where the citation is to

be filed; (9) a statement that the citation represents a determination that a violation has been committed by the person named in the citation and that the determination shall be final unless contested as provided in this Chapter 10.10; and (10) a certified statement of the Director's representative issuing the citation, authorized by RCW 5.50.050, setting forth facts supporting issuance of the citation.

- 2. The citation may be served by personal service in the manner set forth in RCW 4.28.080 for service of a summons or sent by first class mail, addressed to the last known address of such person(s). Service shall be complete at the time of personal service, or if mailed, three days after the date of mailing. If a citation sent by first class mail is returned as undeliverable, service may be made by posting the citation at a conspicuous place on the property and service shall be complete on the date of posting.
 - C. Response to citation. A person must respond to a citation in one of the following ways:
- 1. Paying the amount of the monetary penalty specified in the citation, in which case the record shall show a finding that the person cited committed the violation;
- 2. Requesting in writing a mitigation hearing to explain the circumstances surrounding the commission of the violation and providing an address to which notice of such hearing may be sent; or
- 3. Requesting a contested hearing in writing specifying the reason why the cited violation did not occur or why the person cited is not responsible for the violation, and providing an address to which notice of such hearing may be sent.

A response to a citation must be received by the Office of the Hearing Examiner no later than 15 days after the date the citation is served. When the last day of the appeal period so computed is a Saturday, Sunday, or federal or City holiday, the period shall run until 5 p.m. on the next business day.

D. Failure to respond. If a person fails to respond to a citation within 15 days of service, an order shall be entered by the Hearing Examiner finding that the person cited committed the violation stated in the citation, and assessing the penalty specified in the citation.

E. Mitigation hearings

- 1. Date and notice. If a person requests a mitigation hearing, the mitigation hearing shall be held within 30 days after written response to the citation requesting a hearing is received by the Hearing Examiner. Notice of the time, place, and date of the hearing shall be sent to the address specified in the request for hearing not less than ten days before the date of the hearing.
- 2. Procedure at hearing. The Hearing Examiner shall hold an informal hearing that shall not be governed by the Rules of Evidence. The person cited may present witnesses, but witnesses shall not be compelled to attend. A representative from the Department may also be present and may present additional information, but attendance by a representative from the Department is not required.
- 3. Disposition. The Hearing Examiner shall determine whether the person's explanation justifies reduction of the monetary penalty. Factors that may be considered in whether to reduce the penalty include whether the violation was caused by the act, neglect, or abuse of another.
- 4. Entry of order. After hearing the explanation of the person cited and any other information presented at the hearing, the Hearing Examiner shall enter an order finding that the person cited committed the violation and assessing a monetary penalty in an amount determined pursuant to subsection 10.10.030.H. The Hearing Examiner's decision is the final decision of the City on the matter.

F. Contested hearing

- 1. Date and notice. If a person requests a contested hearing, the hearing shall be held within 60 days after the written response to the citation requesting such hearing is received.
- 2. Hearing. Contested hearings shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures for hearing contested cases contained in Section 3.02.090 and the rules adopted by the Hearing Examiner for hearing contested cases, except as modified by this Section 10.10.030. The issues heard at the hearing shall be limited to those that are raised in writing in the response to the citation and that are within the jurisdiction of the Hearing Examiner. The Hearing Examiner may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents.

- 3. Sufficiency. No citation shall be deemed insufficient for failure to contain a detailed statement of the facts constituting the specific violation which the person cited is alleged to have committed or by reason of defects or imperfections, provided such lack of detail or such defects or imperfections do not prejudice substantial rights of the person cited.
- 4. Amendment of citation. A citation may be amended prior to the conclusion of the hearing to conform to the evidence presented if substantial rights of the person cited are not thereby prejudiced.
- 5. Evidence at hearing. The certified statement or declaration authorized by RCW 5.50.050 shall be prima facie evidence that a violation occurred and that the person cited is responsible. The certified statement or declaration authorized under RCW 5.50.050 and any other evidence accompanying the report shall be admissible without further evidentiary foundation. Any certifications or declarations authorized under RCW 5.50.050 shall also be admissible without further evidentiary foundation. The person cited may rebut the Department evidence and establish that the cited violation(s) did not occur or that the person contesting the citation is not responsible for the violation.
- 6. Disposition. The Hearing Examiner shall determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether the violation occurred. If the Hearing Examiner determines that the violation occurred, the citation shall be sustained and the Hearing Examiner shall enter an order finding that the person cited committed the violation and imposing the applicable penalty. If the Hearing Examiner determines that the violation did not occur, the Hearing Examiner shall enter an order dismissing the citation.
 - 7. Final decision. The Hearing Examiner's decision is the final decision of the City.
- G. Failure to appear for hearing. Failure to appear for a requested hearing will result in an order being entered finding that the person cited committed the violation stated in the citation and assessing the penalty specified in the citation. For good cause shown and upon terms the Hearing Examiner deems just, the Hearing Examiner may set aside an order entered upon a failure to appear.

H. Penalties

- 1. First violation. The first time a person is found by the Director to have violated Section 10.10.020, the person shall be subject to a penalty of \$1,000.
- 2. Second and subsequent violations. Any second or subsequent time a person is found by the Director to have violated Section 10.10.020 within a five-year period, the person shall be subject to a penalty of \$5,000.
- I. Collection of penalties. If the person cited fails to pay a penalty imposed pursuant to this Chapter 10.10, the penalty may be referred to a collection agency. The cost to the City for the collection services will be assessed as costs, at the rate agreed to between the City and the collection agency, and added to the penalty. Alternatively, the City may pursue collection in any other manner allowed by law.
- J. Each day a separate violation. Each day a person violates Section 10.10.020 may be considered a separate violation subject to the penalties of this Section 10.10.030.

10.10.040 Additional relief

The Director may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin any acts or practices when necessary to achieve compliance, including denial, revocation of, or refusal to renew a business license pursuant to Chapter 6.208.

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 s	igned by
me in open session	on in authentication of it	s passage this	day of		, 2025.
		President	of the C	ity Council	
Approved /	returned unsigned /	vetoed this	day of	, 2025.	

le #: CB 120956, Version	: 1	
		Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor
Filed by me this	day of _	, 2025.
		Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk
eal)		

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
LEG	Freeman – 206.684.8178	NA

1. BILL SUMMARY		

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to the regulation of after-hours nightlife lounges; defining after-hours nightlife lounges; establishing operational and safety requirements for such businesses; describing enforcement mechanisms; and adding a new Chapter 10.10 to the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

The proposed legislation would create new safety regulations for lounges that are open between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Regulated businesses would not be able to remain open past 2:00 am unless they:

- 1. Have extended hours permission as part of a valid liquor license issued by the Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board;
- 2. Maintain minimum security requirements, including having at least two security personnel, taking steps to prevent patrons with weapons from entering the establishment, preparing a written safety plan, and operating video surveillance; and
- 3. Allow access to public areas of the business by City enforcement staff during business hours.

The proposed regulations would not apply to restaurants, licensed adult entertainment establishments, licensed all-ages dance venues, and theater and sports and recreation facilities.

Violation of the regulations could result in civil citations and escalating penalties. Continued violations could ultimately result in suspension or revocation of a City business license. Businesses that receive a citation could request a mitigation hearing or contested case hearing before the City Hearing Examiner.

The legislation is intended to help address public safety events at and around after-hours lounges by establishing uniformly applicable safety regulations.

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.

The proposed legislation could require after-hours enforcement by Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) license and standards inspectors and other City staff. Those inspectors may be required to work during non-regular business hours to perform inspections, which could require overtime. Additionally, FAS would need to develop outreach and engagement materials in multiple languages to educate affected business about new regulatory requirements.

Costs associated with those activities are uncertain and depend on the number of regulated businesses. FAS estimates that ongoing costs could be as high as \$100,000 for overtime and outreach. In 2025 that cost could be absorbed by departmental underspend. After 2025, ongoing costs could require additional appropriation authority.

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.

See above.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

The Seattle Police Department, Seattle Fire Department, and other departments currently spend a significant amount of time responding to incidents associated with after-hours nightlife lounges. Those responses have significant costs. Not implementing this legislation could mean continuing police and fire responses to several dozen serious public safety incidents per year.

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

See above.

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.

The proposed legislation would require that regulated after-hours venues comply with uniformly applicable safety regulations. Regulated business could include hookah lounges and other types of businesses that are owned and operated immigrant and refugee communities.

Many victims of violence associated with after-hours venues are from historically disadvantaged communities. Those victims include Donnie Chin, Nadia Kassa, Jonathan Bishu, Trevis Bellard, and Francisco Escatell.

ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.

Not applicable.

iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?

FAS will develop explanatory outreach materials for regulated businesses consistent with the City's Language Access Program (<u>Language Access Program - IandRaffairs</u> | <u>seattle.gov</u>) administered by the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

- 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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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?

The legislation is intended to help address public safety events at and around after-hours lounges by establishing uniformly applicable safety regulations. The effectiveness of the legislation could be measured by changes in public safety calls for service and significant public safety events, like gun violence, in or around regulated businesses

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

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Summary Attachments:



March 20, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Public Safety Committee

From: Tamaso Johnson and Ketil Freeman, Analysts

Subject: Council Bill 120956 – Regulation of After-hours Nightlife Lounges

On March 25th the Public Safety Committee (Committee) will have an initial discussion and briefing on <u>Council Bill (CB) 120956</u>, which would establish new safety regulations for certain types of nightlife establishments that are open between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 p.m.

This memorandum (1) provides background on current regulations applicable to most afterhours nightlife establishments, (2) describes what CB 120956 would do, and (3) discusses next steps.

Current City Regulations Applicable to Nightlife Establishments

Large nightclubs, including those open after 2:00 a.m., are currently required to have a written safety plan that addresses security, crowd control, and procedures for ensuring that underage patrons are not served alcohol. Safety plans are filed with, and reviewed by, the Department Finance and Administrative Services (FAS). Current regulations apply to nightclubs that serve liquor and have a certificate of occupancy that allows 200 or more persons to be in the establishment.

Other types of nightlife establishments that may be open after 2:00 a.m. are also regulated by FAS. Specifically, all-ages dance venues are required to obtain a regulatory license and meet minimum security requirements, including the provision of security personnel,³ and adult entertainment premises must similarly obtain a regulatory license and meet minimum security requirements.⁴ Current regulations require that adult entertainment establishments close by 2:30 a.m.⁵

In addition to specific regulations, the City Attorney's Office reviews and advises on liquor license applications (<u>Understand the Liquor License Review</u>) and the Office of Economic Development provides resources to current and prospective nightlife establishments related to understanding city, county, and state regulations and maintaining good relationships with nearneighbors (<u>Nightlife Establishment Handbook</u>).

¹ See <u>Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 10.11</u>.

² SMC Section 10.11.010.C.

³ SMC Ch. 6.295.

⁴ SMC Ch. 6.270.

⁵ SMC Section 6.270.130.

CB 120956

The proposed bill would create new safety regulations for nightlife lounges that are open between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. for the purposes of socializing and either smoking or dancing.

Regulated businesses would include both venues open to the public and private clubs.

Restaurants, adult entertainment establishments, all-ages dance venues, entertainment venues like theaters and spectator sports facilities, and businesses whose purposes do not extend to socializing and either smoking or dancing would be exempt from the regulations.

Regulated businesses would not be able to remain open past 2:00 a.m. unless they:

- 1. Have extended hours permission as part of a valid liquor license issued by the Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board;
- 2. Maintain minimum security requirements, including having at least two trained security personnel on site when the business is open after 2:00 a.m., taking steps to prevent patrons with weapons from entering the establishment, preparing a written safety plan, and operating video surveillance; and
- 3. Allow access to public areas of the business by City enforcement staff during business hours.

Violation of the regulations could result in civil citations and escalating penalties. Continued violations could ultimately result in suspension or revocation of a City business license. Businesses that receive a citation could request a mitigation hearing or contested case hearing before the City Hearing Examiner. FAS would be primarily responsible for enforcing the new regulations. Initial enforcement staffing could be accomplished through paid overtime to existing inspectors for after-hours work.

FAS estimates the cost for overtime staffing and development of outreach materials could be \$100,000 in 2025. That cost could be absorbed by annual department underspend. Depending on the number of regulated businesses, additional appropriations and position authority could be required for future enforcement. Future costs could be recovered through increases in business license fees.

Next Steps

The Committee will have an initial briefing and discussion on March 25th. The Committee may vote on a recommendation to the Full Council at its meeting on April 8th.

cc: Ben Noble, Director Yolanda Ho, Deputy Director



Gun Violence Threatens Safe Nightlife

Slide 2

- 17 shooting incidents 2025 YTD associated with nightlife
- 47 shooting incidents 2024 associated with nightlife
- Most common time for shooting events is in the 2am hour:

Shooting and Shots Fired by the Time of Day and Day of the Week, YTD 2025

Time of the Day

Weekday of Offense Date	11 PM	12 PM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM- 10) PM
Mon		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wed		0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Thu		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fri		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sat		0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Sun		0	0	0	5	0	1	0	1	0
YTD - 2025		2	1	3	6	0	3	0	2	0



Seattle City Attorney's Office

Ann Davison, City Attorney

March 2025

Shootings at After-Hours Locations

Slide 3

GO#	Date	Time	Casings	Guns
2020-000244	01/01/20	3:13	20	2
2021-189489	07/25/21	3:29	0	1
2021-221942	08/25/21	23:29	3	1
2021-223996	08/28/21	1:44	4	1
2021-294739	11/06/21	4:16	6	1
2021-308541	11/21/21	2:18	0	1
2022-089902	04/10/22	22:35	4	1
2022-263505	10/02/22	2:35	29	3
2022-270753	10/09/22	3:48	21	6
2023-031919	02/03/23	1:18	1	1
2023-081621	03/26/23	0:24	9	1
2023-104085	04/18/23	1:43	0	1
2023-160910	06/10/23	1:59	21	2
2023-161961	06/11/23	2:41	96	3
2023-216083	07/30/23	2:57	15	5
2023-238573	08/19/23	6:16	2	1
2023-239656	08/20/23	4:24	11	5
2023-247162	08/27/23	3:47	1	1
2023-354495	12/10/23	3:39	18	2
2023-362271	12/17/23	20:40	16	1
2024-039316	02/11/24	4:00	15	2
2024-128759	05/12/24	4:04	1	1
2024-142573	05/26/24	3:50	68	5
2024-148346	06/01/24	5:01	121	11
2024-149391	06/02/24	8:51	7	1
2024-202422	07/22/24	2:27	47	3
2024-223269	08/10/24	0:24	38	3
2024-230924	08/17/24	3:09	2	1
2024-303765	10/26/24	4:20	80	8
2024-344033	12/07/24	3:48	27	3
2025-000114	01/01/25	1:25	10	2
2025-017204	01/19/25	4:14	13	3
2025-036013	02/08/25	6:20	97	7
2025-057006	03/02/25	6:18	0	1
			803	91

- 35+ shootings connected to select after-hours locations, many with multiple shooting events
- 800+ bullet casings collected by SPD at these events representing 91 different firearms
- In 2025, shootings at two afterhours locations which were illegally serving alcohol (without a license and after 2am)



Seattle City Attorney's Office

Ann Davison, City Attorney

March 2025

Legislative Solution

Slide 4

- Proposed legislation provides additional tools to improve security at afterhours nightlife locations
- After-hours nightlife lounge means a business, nonprofit, or club establishment open between the hours of 2am and 6am and whose purposes in those hours include socializing and either smoking or dancing.
- Requires After-Hours Nightlife Lounges to:
 - Obtain and comply with all city permits and licenses
 - Employ at least two security personnel
 - Operate video surveillance
 - Prevent weapons from entering premises
 - Have a safety plan
 - Allow entry by all City peace officers during operating hours (same as any establishment with a liquor license)



Enforcement Slide 5

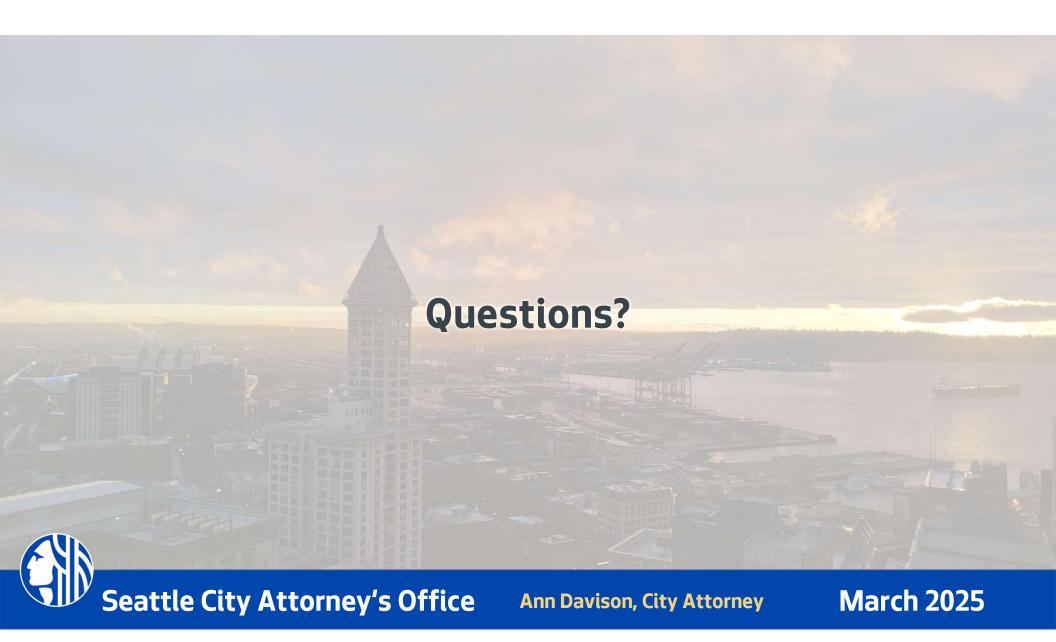
 The bill will be enforced by the Finance and Administrative Services Department (FAS)

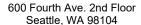
- The first violation results in a \$1,000 civil citation; second \$5,000
- Businesses may contest a citation before a hearing examiner
- Authorizes City Attorney to seek legal and equitable relief from establishments that remain out of compliance
- The bill will <u>not</u> disrupt the activity of after-hours locations that currently have an LCB endorsement for extended hours
- The bill will <u>not</u> impact restaurants, bars, or clubs that close at or before 2am (most LCB-licensed establishments)
- The bill will <u>not</u> impact after-hours activities in private homes

Seattle City Attorney's Office

Ann Davison, City Attorney

March 2025





SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL



Legislation Text

File #: Res 32167, Version: 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION

- A RESOLUTION acknowledging that Seattle residents, workers, students, and visitors deserve to be safe and feel safe; recognizing and appreciating first responders from the Seattle Police Department, Seattle Fire Department, and the Community Assisted Response and Engagement Department; affirming the City's obligations to fully support, train, and equip first responders; committing to a diversified public safety response system; acknowledging the City's actions to reform the Police Department under the federal Consent Decree; committing to resolve the remaining issues of the Consent Decree; and affirming the essential services provided by the Police Department.
- WHEREAS, professional and dedicated Seattle Police Department officers, Seattle Fire Department firefighters, Community Assisted Response and Engagement Department 911 call takers, dispatchers, and crisis responders, along with their many other professional colleagues in these departments, work every day to protect the community; are tasked with upholding the rule of law and protecting life and property; and often put themselves in harm's way to fulfill their obligation to serve and protect Seattle residents, workers, students, and visitors; and
- WHEREAS, in 2012, The City of Seattle and the U.S. Department of Justice entered into a settlement agreement, or "Consent Decree," requiring the City government to implement reforms "with the goal of ensuring that police services are delivered to the people of Seattle in a manner that fully complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States, effectively ensures officer and public safety, and promotes public confidence..."; and
- WHEREAS, the case of *United States v. the City of Seattle* is adjudicated by The Honorable James L. Robart of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington; and
- WHEREAS, Merrick Bobb served as the original Seattle Monitor from 2013 through 2020 and was succeeded by Dr. Antonio Oftelie in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2020, the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer and the subsequent protests caused local governments to acknowledge the history of institutional racism within their criminal justice and law enforcement systems; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. The City finds and declares that:

A. Seattle residents, workers, students, and visitors deserve to be safe, feel safe, and receive respectful and effective services from the City's first responders, who play a critical role in guarding against loss of life and property and ensuring that the public has confidence that its government will create and maintain safe and thriving neighborhoods.

B. The Seattle Fire Department (SFD) has expanded its services to provide specialized care to some of the City's most vulnerable members through its Mobile Integrated Health Program. As part of this program, Health One dispatches units that are staffed by a team of firefighters and a civilian social worker to help with non-emergency calls, including transport, provider referrals, and behavioral health support. In addition, SFD launched the Health 99 program in 2023 to tackle the public health and safety impacts of the opioid and fentanyl crisis, specifically by dispatching emergency medical responders quickly to respond to overdose calls and provide follow-up outreach services.

C. SFD firefighters continue to provide the core services the City's fire service is known for, including responding to 112,320 fire and medical emergency events in 2024, a slight increase over the 111,319 responses in 2023, but a 23.2 percent increase over the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

D. In 2024, 59 percent of all SFD responses were classified as "Basic Life Support," 27 percent were fire response, 13 percent were for "Advanced Life Support," and 0.4 percent were "mutual aid and special operation" responses.

E. Firefighters responded to 459 events in 2024 that were classified as "scenes of violence," a slight

decrease from the 494 in 2023, but a 35.8 percent increase over the pre-pandemic year of 2019. In 2024, firefighters had to request an expedited police response to 150 events, including "help the firefighter" responses. The synthetic opioid crisis has contributed to increased risk for the City's firefighters.

- F. The Consent Decree has established a foundation for constitutional policing in Seattle and has spurred the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to implement significant reforms over the past 12 years.
- G. As recognized by the Court-appointed Monitor, SPD has gone above and beyond the Consent Decree in many areas, embracing a vision for the department centered on service-oriented and equitable policing, supported by rigorous internal systems of critical analysis. This commitment is evidenced by a notable decrease in the use of force, the expansion of transparent and leading-edge data analytics, adoption of new accountability systems and processes, and the growing national recognition of SPD's achievements.
- H. Between 2013 and 2015, SPD developed new policies and training relating to the use of force, force investigation and review, crisis intervention, bias-free policing, supervision, and stops and detentions. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the Monitor, and the Court approved each of these policies and trainings and by 2017, SPD had successfully passed all ten assessments conducted by the Monitoring Team.
- I. The Court's January 10, 2018 order recognized the significant decrease in SPD officers' use of force and finding that "SPD has achieved full and effective compliance with the Consent Decree such that Phase I of the Consent Decree is now complete and the Phase II sustainment period should commence."
- J. Between 2018 and 2020, SPD continued to demonstrate additional progress, such as expanding its internationally recognized data analytics program, including a research consortium comprising researchers from over 80 universities around the world, that is focused on driving best practices and advancements in the public safety sector. Along with these improvements, SPD continued to sustain the reduction in the use of serious force and continues today to review every use of force under SPD policy, which is a higher standard than constitutionally required.
 - K. As the 2020 protests unfolded, SPD faced significant criticism from the Monitor, accountability

partners, and the public for its use of less lethal devices, including chemical irritants. In response to this criticism, including assessments from within the department, SPD revised its crowd management policy to reflect lessons learned from the protests. The Court approved the revised crowd management policy in February 2021.

L. In May 2022, the Monitor submitted a Comprehensive Assessment of SPD, recognizing that "Seattle has accomplished a great deal under the Consent Decree." The Monitor found that force was used in only 1.5 percent of crisis interventions in 2021, a 48 percent decline since 2015. The Monitor concluded that SPD had "sustained full and effective compliance with areas relating to crisis intervention, stops and detentions, and bias free policing," as well as with the use of force, except during the 2020 protests. The Monitor made recommendations for improvement in the following four areas: crowd management, accountability, assessing disparities, and data governance.

M. In March 2023, the City and DOJ filed a joint motion to terminate a majority of the requirements of the Consent Decree on the basis that they had been met.

N. In September 2023, the Court granted this motion in part, ruling that SPD had "achieved sustained compliance with the majority of the core commitments..." The order terminated the Consent Decree obligations regarding "crisis intervention, stops and detentions, bias-free policing, supervision, and the Office of Police Accountability" while holding open the following two areas: (1) "use of force in crowd settings" and (2) "ensuring a sustainable system of review and accountability regarding the conduct of officers and the policies and principles of SPD." The Court stated it "is immensely proud of the efforts SPD has undertaken since this matter began in 2012. In particular, SPD has made tremendous improvements in its policies, methods of operation, and leadership with respect to the areas of use of force, stops and detentions, and crisis intervention. SPD's efforts with respect to data collection and analysis, too, are like night-and-day when compared to the status of data collection and analysis before the implementation of the changes required under the Consent Decree. The court is also extremely proud of the constructive approaches to policing that have

resulted from the efforts of the accountability triad of the Office of Police Accountability ('OPA'), the Office of the Inspector General ('OIG'), and the Community Police Commission ('CPC')."

O. In October 2024, OIG issued its Seattle Police Department Crisis Assessment report, concluding that SPD has continued to improve in its use of force and response to individuals in crisis. The report found that fewer than two percent of crisis contacts between 2021 and 2023 included any reportable use of force. It also noted that in its observations, officers "communicat[ed] effectively with subjects and attempt[ed] to de-escalate incidents before resorting to force. When uses of force did occur, OIG consistently found them necessary, reasonable, and proportional to circumstances."

P. The City Council and Mayor acknowledge and are proud of the significant reforms made by the officers and professional staff of SPD.

Section 2. With the passage of Ordinance 127182 on February 11, 2025, and the Mayor's signing of the ordinance on February 14, 2025, the City is now positioned to address its outstanding crowd management obligations under the Consent Decree. Once SPD has updated its crowd management policies to comply with Ordinance 127182, the City Council and Mayor request that the City Attorney submit the updated policies to the Monitor and DOJ and eventually to the Court for review.

Section 3. The City commits to continuing to enhance the police accountability system, including supporting and maintaining a robust, effective, and civilian-led accountability system. Working in collaboration with SPD leaders, the City's accountability entities set the highest standards of professionalism and excellence and hold officers accountable for policy violations that erode community trust.

Section 4. In recognition of the outstanding work of the City's first responders, the City commits to the fair treatment of its first responders and affirms its obligations to:

A. Empower SPD, SFD, and Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department personnel to carry out their public safety mandate effectively and provide these vital City departments with the necessary tools, training, and resources to perform their critical work.

B. Recruit, hire, train, and retain police officers to enable SPD to be adequately staffed, meet response time goals, maintain the peace of the City, and hold offenders accountable.

Section 5. The City reaffirms its commitment to a diversified public safety response system, including the CARE Department. Following the successful launch of a dual dispatch pilot, which responds to wellness checks and person-down 911 calls with civilian first responders alongside SPD officers, the City is in the process of expanding the pilot citywide, seven days a week, and is committed to continuing to invest in community-focused, trauma-informed response options.

Section 6. The City recognizes that an effective, professional, and community-trusted police service that upholds the dignity and value of every person and holds offenders accountable is an essential function of city government. Through the adoption of this resolution, the City reverses any prior commitments or pledges to defund or abolish SPD services or personnel which led to the resignation of hundreds of police officers.

Adopted by the City Council the	e day of		, 2025, and signed by
me in open session in authentication of	its adoption this	day of	, 2025
	President	of the City Council	-
The Mayor concurred the	day of	, 2025.	

		Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor
Filed by me this	day of _	, 2025.
		Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Legislative	Ben Noble	TBD

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION acknowledging that Seattle residents, workers, students, and visitors deserve to be safe and feel safe; recognizing and appreciating first responders from the Seattle Police Department, Seattle Fire Department, and the Community Assisted Response and Engagement Department; affirming the City's obligations to fully support, train, and equip first responders; committing to a diversified public safety response system; acknowledging the City's actions to reform the Police Department under the federal Consent Decree; committing to resolve the remaining issues of the Consent Decree; and affirming the essential services provided by the Police Department.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

This resolution provides an affirmative recognition and appreciation for the City of Seattle's first responders, including those who work at the Seattle Police Department (SPD), the Seattle Fire Department, and the Community Assisted Response and Engagement Department. The resolution also reaffirms the City's commitment to a system that offers a diverse set of responses, including not only law enforcement and traditional emergency medical services but also approaches that address the needs of those with longer-term emotional needs or in mental-health crises. In addition, the resolution acknowledges the extensive work done over the past 10+ years to reform SPD's policies and practices in response to the Department of Justice investigation that identified significant failures around biased policing and excessive use of force. As the resolution documents, federal oversight imposed through the terms of a court-imposed consent decree is likely ending soon. Consistent with the City's interest in reaching that milestone, the legislation specifically requests that the Executive deliver crowd-management policies consistent with recently adopted legislation to the federal Monitor and the Department of Justice, with the expectation that they will subsequently be provided to the federal court.

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.

This legislation has no such financial impacts.

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.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation. There are no direct financial costs or other material impacts associated with not implementing this resolution.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Please describe how this legislation may affect any department besides the originating department.

The resolution includes a request to SPD to finalize crowd control policies consistent with recent Council-approved legislation, and a related request to the Office of the City Attorney to submit these policies to the Federal Monitor and the Department of Justice, and subsequently to the Federal Court for its review.

b. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.

N/A

c. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

As documented in the legislation itself, this resolution, while expressing appreciation for the work of Seattle's first responders, also recognizes the history of biased policing and use of excessive force that led to the federal consent decree and the appointment of a court-ordered Monitor. The resolution also documents the corrective steps taken over the past 10+ years and the Court's observations regarding improved policing practices at SPD. With the completion of new crowd management policies, which must be consistent with legislation recently passed by the City Council, SPD will be positioned to clear the final remaining hurdle for termination of the consent decree and the end of federal oversight.

- d. Climate Change Implications N/A
- e. 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

5. CHECKLIST
Please click the appropriate box if any of these questions apply to this legislation.
None of the following items apply to this resolution.
☐ Is a public hearing required?
☐ Is publication of notice with <i>The Daily Journal of Commerce</i> and/or <i>The Seattle Times</i> required?
☐ If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?
Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?



March 25, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Public Safety Committee

From: Greg Doss, Analyst

Subject: Background for Resolution 32167 – Recognizing Seattle's first responders and

Consent Decree reforms

On March 25, 2025, the Public Safety Committee will discuss Resolution (RES) 32167, which would:

- (1) Recognize and appreciate the services provided by the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Seattle's other first responders, the Seattle Fire Department (SFD), and the Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department; affirm the City's obligations to fully support, train, and equip first responders; and commit to a diversified public safety response system; and
- (2) Recognize the City's prior and current actions to reform the Police Department under the 2012 federal Consent Decree, and commit to resolving remaining the Consent Decree issues that have been identified by the US District Court.

The Public Safety Committee Chair has indicated that the Committee will hear and potentially vote on RES 32167 in today's Committee meeting. A full Council vote could come as soon as April 1, 2025.

This memo provides background and context for both the findings in Section 1 of RES 32167, as well as the City commitments made in subsequent sections.

Background: The City's Commitment to SPD Sworn Officers: RES 32167 reverses any prior City commitments or pledges to defund or abolish SPD services or personnel which led to the resignation of hundreds of police officers.

In the summer of 2020, the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis caused several local governments to acknowledge the histories of institutional racism within their law enforcement systems. Nationwide, some cities approached the important challenge of reimaging public safety by attempting to "defund" or cut up to 50% of the funding dedicated to the support of sworn police forces; and some Seattle City Councilmembers made public commitments to: (1) reduce funding to the Seattle Police Department; and (2) reduce the overall size of the sworn police force.

In mid-year adjustments to the 2020 budget, forced by pandemic-driven revenue shortfalls, and in adopting the 2021 budget, the Seattle City Council reduced SPD's annual budget by a combined 11%. This was achieved by transferring the 911 Communications Center, Victim

Advocates and the Parking Enforcement Officers out of SPD, capturing salary savings for vacant positions, and reducing overtime dollars used to support special events staffing that was not needed during the pandemic. No layoffs of sworn personnel occurred as a result these budget actions.

Prior to a majority new Council taking office on January 1, 2024, SPD officer separation surveys showed that some departing SPD officers indicated a perceived lack of support from Seattle's elected representatives. It is likely that this sentiment contributed to the largest number of sworn officer resignations in recent history - a net reduction of no less than 352 Fully Trained Officers and 365 Deployable Officers.¹ This reduction in deployable officers led to a significant increase in 911-call response times as well as a reduction in the number of calls that receive a police response.

The Year-end 2024 SPD Police Staffing Report shows that officer separations are trending down, and officer hiring is increasing, potentially assisted by: (1) hiring bonuses offered for new recruits and lateral hires; and (2) changes to the City's officer recruitment and retention programs made through Ordinance 127026, passed in May 2024.

Background – The City's commitment to a diversified public safety response. RES 32167 reaffirms the City's commitment to a diversified public safety response system, including the CARE Department and SFD's Mobile Integrated Health Program.

CARE's Diversified Response: Ordinance 126233 created the Community Safety and Communications Center (CSCC) effective January 1, 2021, which included the 911 call answering and dispatch center that had been housed within SPD. In November 2023, the CSCC was renamed the Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department, and the department launched three CARE teams to provide a response to persons in crisis and other incidents where police officers are not needed. The CARE program has expanded in the last two years and now employs 24 CARE responders.

Health One is SFD's Mobile Integrated Health response unit. Launched in 2019, it is designed to respond to individuals in need of medical care, mental health care, shelter or other social services. Health One is a multidisciplinary team, with firefighters and case managers each bringing unique skills and approaches to the scene. SFD also operates Health 99, which was launched in 2023 and focuses narrowly on individuals who have experienced opioid overdoses. This team aims to connect overdose survivors with medications for opioid use disorder, primary care and other supportive services. SFD currently manages two Health One teams, one Health 99 team and a two-person overdose follow-up unit.

Background – The City's efforts to reform the Police Department under the federal Consent Decree. As noted in RES 32167, passage of Ordinance 127182 on February 11, 2025, and the

Page 2 of 3

¹ SPD Q2 2024 Staff Report, Table 1 showing the difference between Dec 2019 and 2024 Q2 staffing data of incoming new officers and outgoing officers who retired or separated from service.

Mayor's signing of the ordinance on February 14, 2025, positions the City to address its outstanding crowd management obligations under the Consent Decree.

On September 7, 2023, the US District Court issued an order that found that the City has demonstrated sustained full and effective compliance with the majority of the core commitments of the Consent Decree. However, the Court also found that the City and SPD have not yet demonstrated sustained compliance with the use of force provisions of the Consent Decree as applied to crowd control situations. In addition, the Court held that the City has more work to do in ensuring a sustainable accountability system. The specific accountability provisions previously criticized by the Court are currently under negotiation and may ultimately be decided in binding arbitration, as required by the state when municipalities reach impasse with public safety unions.

In a hearing on October 16, 2024, the parties represented, upon questioning from the Court, that they were close to being ready to file a motion to end the Consent Decree and ask the Court to dismiss the case. The Court directed the City to move forward expeditiously to submit final SPD policies on crowd management and less lethal tools to the federal monitor and the DOJ for their review, and subsequently to the Court for its approval.

Please direct any questions on RES 32167 to Greg Doss at 206-755-6385. Thank you.

cc: Ben Noble, Director Yolanda Ho, Deputy Director