

## Amendment B to CB 120916 Crowd Management Ordinance

Sponsor: Councilmember Kettle

SPD Chief must provide authorization for the deployment of blast balls

**Effect:** This amendment would prohibit the use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd unless authorization is provided by the Chief of Police. This authorization is in addition to the amended bill requirement that the Executive issue a proclamation of civil emergency.

**Background** SPD 8.300-POL-10 (Blast Balls) sets forth a number of conditions that must be met before officers may deploy blast balls. As amended in the Public Safety Committee on January 14, 2025, the use of Blast Balls is conditioned on the Executive issuing a proclamation of civil emergency pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 10.02.

Once authorized per the requirement above, and the Mayor's Office has issued a proclamation of civil emergency, any SPD Incident Commander ranked Lieutenant or higher may authorize use of blast balls to move or disperse a crowd. This is the current standard set in SPD's Crowd Management, Intervention and Control policy (SPD 14.090).

**1. Amend Amendment A by striking the first paragraph in Section 2, subsection H, and replacing it with the following:**

H. 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.