

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
Legislative	Lish Whitson/206-615-1674	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 Seattle whistleblower protection code; expanding the definition of “report” in the City of Seattle’s whistleblower protection ordinance to include reporting to the Office of Inspector General for Public Safety; amending Section 4.20.805 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and background of the Legislation:

This bill would amend the definition of “reporting” in the whistleblower protection code (Subchapter III of Chapter 4.20 of the Seattle Municipal Code) to provide whistleblower protections for reporting improper governmental actions to the Office of Inspector General for Public Safety (OIG). The OIG is charged with auditing and reviewing activities of the Seattle Police Department and the Office of Police Accountability and may also audit other City agencies on matters related to policing and criminal justice. During its auditing activities, it may hear reports of improper governmental acts. This bill would include reporting of improper governmental actions about the Seattle Police Department or Office of Police Accountability to the OIG to the list of reporting for which employees may receive whistleblower protection.

Including OIG may encourage employees to come forward who might otherwise not report improper governmental actions. Although there are other routes to report for whistleblower protections, OIG by virtue of its audits and interviews is placed in situations where such reports may naturally arise. Adding OIG to the list of entities to whom inappropriate governmental actions can be reported under the whistleblower protection code is estimated to result in up to three reporting occurrences per year.

The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission would review any potential instance of retaliation against any employee who makes one of those reports. This is likely to be a subset of any employees reporting instances of reporting of an improper governmental act.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ___ Yes 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

Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

No

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

The legislation would incorporate the oversight authority that is invested in the Office of Inspector General into Seattle's Whistleblower Protection Ordinance, which is overseen by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission. The protections would be extended to reporting made regarding the Seattle Police Department or Office of Police Accountability. Any increase in reporting would occur with those departments.

b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No

c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?

No

d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No

e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No

f. 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?

None identified.

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).

Not applicable

List attachments/exhibits below: None