

Amendment C to CB 120916 Crowd Management Ordinance

Sponsor: Councilmember Moore

Mayoral authorization required for use of blast balls

Effect: This amendment would require the Mayor to provide authorization for the use of blast balls. If a President Pro Tem is acting as the Mayor, then authorization for the use of blast balls shall come from the Chief of Police.

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).

Background: Under CB 120319, as amended in Committee on January 14, 2025, 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.

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

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, 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.