



**City of Seattle**  
Mayor Edward B. Murray

January 31, 2017

The Honorable Bruce Harrell  
Seattle City Council  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Harrell:

Today I am transmitting legislation to the City Council that establishes major reforms to the Seattle Police Department's (SPD) accountability structure.

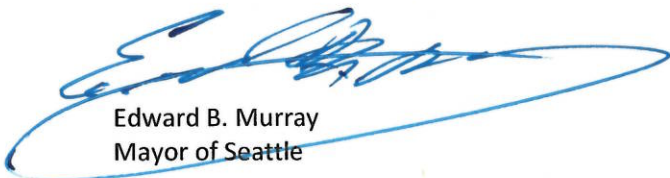
The attached legislation is designed to meet and exceed the accountability and transparency requirements agreed to under the City's 2012 Consent Decree settlement with the federal Department of Justice regarding police practices. It is transmitted to Council after months-long discussions with the Community Police Commission, Federal Monitor Merrick Bobb, Councilmembers, Council Central Staff, and many other stakeholders. This legislation has also been approved as consistent with the Consent Decree by U.S. District Judge James L. Robart, per his January 6, 2017, Court Order and establishes several elements relating to SPD's accountability structure:

- An independent, civilian-led and staffed Office of Police Accountability that has the resources and internal mechanisms necessary to continue to conduct fair, thorough and timely investigations and to engender and maintain the trust of the community;
- A far-reaching and powerful Office of Inspector General to provide rigorous audits and analyses of SPD policies, procedures and practices, and to act as a permanent "monitor" to verify that SPD maintains its standard of excellence and its commitment to and practice of constitutional policing;
- A permanent and robust Community Police Commission to ensure that the community has a formal role to provide input and civilian oversight, and the ability to ensure police accountability today and in the future.

Other police accountability efforts successfully implemented in recent years include changes in use of force policies, bias-free policing practices, and other procedures. While this legislation is only part of the City's broader police accountability reform efforts, it is one that can make lasting institutional change that can ultimately build trust between the police and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I look forward to working with you to realize our shared vision of police accountability in our city.

Sincerely,



Edward B. Murray  
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council