

May 6, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Public Safety and Human Services Committee
From: Lise Kaye, Analyst
Subject: Council Bill 120065: Transferring Positions from Seattle Police Department to the Community Safety and Communications Center

On May 11, 2021, the Public Safety and Human Services Committee will discuss and possibly vote on Council Bill (CB) 120065, which would transfer 9-1-1 call center positions and parking enforcement officer (PEO) positions from the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to the Community Safety and Communications Center (CSCC). This memo provides a brief legislative history related to the CSCC and describes the positions that would be transferred by the bill.

Background

On November 23, 2020, as part of the 2021 budget process, the City Council passed [Ordinance 126233](#), establishing a new CSCC within the Executive Department. Ordinance 126233 provided that the CSCC would initially provide two functions: police 9-1-1 dispatch and parking enforcement services. Moving these functions to the CSCC was intended to help reframe how the City provides for community safety and respond to the Council's interest in exploring expanded duties for the PEOs. Ordinance 126233 provided that the CSCC would begin performing the 9-1-1 call center functions by June 1, 2021 and that the CSCC would begin performing parking enforcement functions on June 1, 2021.¹

Ordinance 126233 differed from the approach included in the Mayor's 2021 Proposed Budget, which would have moved the PEOs to the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and moved the police 9-1-1 call center to a new Seattle Emergency Communications Center beginning January 1, 2021.²

During Council's consideration of the Mayor's 2021 Proposed Budget, the Executive identified the need for additional lead time to start up the new CSCC. The City Council included a [proviso](#) in the 2021 Adopted Budget, allowing the Executive to charge parking enforcement and 9-1-1 expenses against the SPD budget until June 1, 2021.³ The budget proviso also requested that the Executive provide a detailed estimate by March 31, 2021 of additional staff and budget that

¹ The CSCC would begin providing dispatch functions on the earlier of (a) June 1, 2021 or (b) 30 days after the Executive receives a required federal Originating Agency Identifier (ORI). The City received the new the ORI on April 26, 2021.

² The Mayor also issued Executive Order 2020-10 on September 30, 2020, creating a Community Safety Work Group and a SPD Functional Analysis Interdepartmental Team (IDT) charged with making recommendations by March 31, 2021 on multiple topics, including "the feasibility, timeline, and costs associated with pursuing a long-term vision of a creating a unified emergency communications, dispatch, and information/ service referral center."

³ [Ordinance 126237](#) adopted the City's 2021 budget and included the proviso.

would be required to support the potential expansion of the PEOs' responsibilities.⁴ Ordinance 126233 did not transfer existing personnel to the CSCC because the new agency could not become fully operational until the City received the necessary federal Originating Agency Identifier (ORI). Council anticipated that the Executive would send separate legislation to make the personnel transfers and add any additional positions by June 1, 2021.

The Council also approved two related Statements of Legislative Intent, requesting reports by the end of March 2021 on the cost of using PEOs for traffic control during special events and on merging or co-locating the SPD and Seattle Fire Department (SFD) 9-1-1 call centers.⁵ None of the three reports have yet been provided to Council. The Executive has continued to advocate for transferring the PEOs to SDOT, citing (a) previous collaboration between the PEOs and SDOT's Curbside Management Team and (b) the observation that no other municipalities have detached parking enforcement from a public works, transportation, or police reporting structure. The Executive reported to the Committee on April 27, 2021 that City Budget Office Director Noble will request extensions to the report deadlines, due in part to union demands to bargain.⁶

CB 120065, sponsored by Councilmember Herbold, would move the SPD 9-1-1 call center and PEOs to the CSCC, consistent with Ordinance 126233 and the 2021 Adopted Budget. As described below, it would transfer 140 positions from the SPD 9-1-1 call center and 120 parking enforcement positions from SPD to the CSCC. The bill includes a "ratify and confirm" clause that would allow the Executive to implement acts consistent with the authority of the legislation prior to its effective date, which would be after the June 1, 2021 deadline in the budget proviso.⁷

⁴ The range of potentially expanded duties included managing traffic at lighted intersections, red light camera and school zone enforcement, response to non-injury collisions, response to and reporting on minor thefts and car break-ins, and traffic control. The proviso also requested a report as to the feasibility of granting the PEOs access to SDOT's car charging stations.

⁵ Formally adopted as part of [Resolution 31995, SPD-005-B-2](#) requested a report from SPD by March 30, 2021 on the cost of using PEOs or other non-SPD officers for traffic control during special events, contracted sporting events and flagging. [SPD-503-A-003](#) requested a report by March 31, 2021 on potential economies of scale and other benefits and costs associated with either merging or co-locating the police and fire 9-1-1 call centers into the new CSCC.

⁶ SPD advised Central Staff on March 29, 2021 that the reports relating to the potential expansion of the PEOs' responsibilities are on hold due to demands to bargain impacts from SPEOG (made October 13, 2020) and PROTEC17 (made April 18, 2021). SPOG has also made a demand (July 30, 2020) to bargain the decision and impacts of transferring work out of SPD that is traditionally performed by SPOG members, which would include expanding PEOs' scope of work to include work traditionally performed by SPOG members. Interim Director Lombard reported to the Public Safety and Human Services Committee on April 27, 2021 that he was working with the Seattle Police Dispatchers' Guild on potential modifications to their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

⁷ See "Section 3. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance taken after its passage and prior to its effective date is ratified and confirmed." and "Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020."

CSCC Positions

CB 120065 would transfer the following 140 SPD 9-1-1 call center positions from SPD to the CSCC:

- Dispatchers (109);
- Police Communications Analysts (7);
- Dispatcher Supervisors (20);
- Administrative Specialist II (1); and
- Manager II (3).

CB 120065 would also transfer the following 120 parking enforcement positions from SPD to the CSCC:

- Parking Enforcement Officers (106);
- Parking Enforcement Officer Supervisors (12);
- One Administrative Specialist (1); and
- Manager III (1).

In addition to hiring a new Director as authorized in Ordinance 126233, the Executive anticipates that additional “back of house” positions (e.g., human resources and finance) will be needed to support one or both of the CSCC functions and plans to submit a proposal in the 2022 budget.⁸ In the meantime, the Executive appointed SFD Deputy Chief Chris Lombard to become CSCC Interim Director on March 8. Interim Director Lombard has retained temporary assistance to help set up the new CSCC.

Committee Action

Options for Council action are as follows:

1. Pass CB 120065. CB 120065 would transfer the SPD 9-1-1 dispatch positions and PEO positions to the CSCC;
2. Amend CB 120065 to remove the transfer of PEO positions to the CSCC; and then introduce and pass the Executive’s transmitted legislation that would transfer the PEO positions and appropriations to SDOT; or
3. Take no action. The Executive and/or Council would need to take some future action to meet the payroll for the positions that would remain in SPD.

cc: Dan Eder, Interim Director
Aly Pennucci, Policy and Budget Manager

⁸ Ordinance 126233 created the position of Director of the CSCC to be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council. The permanent Director’s position is classified as an Executive 3 and is subject to reappointment and reconfirmation every four (4) years.