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Select Budget Committee
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SPD-WalkOn-2

Sponsor: Councilmember Sawant

Cut \$1.09 million GF from SPD for Hiring Incentives

Effect: This Council Budget Action (CBA) would cut \$1.09 million GF from the Seattle Police Department (SPD) for hiring incentives that would in 2022 provide \$7,500 hiring bonuses to recruit hires and \$15,000 hiring bonuses to lateral hires. The hiring incentives would be funded with salary savings that has accrued due to a recent trend in higher-than-normal separations. SPD's 2022 staffing plan assumes that the department will make 125 hires, which is a larger number of hires than the department has been able to make. SPD staff believes that the hiring incentives will assist with the recruiting process and help the department reach its hiring goals.

Background: The Executive requested that the Council include a similar hiring incentive program in the 2021 Mid-year Supplemental Budget, but the Council did not include funding for the program in the ordinance that it ultimately passed (Ordinance 126429). The Executive again proposes the hiring incentive program in the 2022 Proposed Budget and has transmitted budget legislation that would be required to authorize the incentives. This legislation has not been introduced.