



firefighters, Community Assisted Response and Engagement Department 911 call takers, dispatchers, and crisis responders, along with their many other professional colleagues in these departments, work every day to protect the community; are tasked with upholding the rule of law and protecting life and property; and often put themselves in harm's way to fulfill their obligation to serve and protect Seattle residents, workers, students, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, The City of Seattle and the U.S. Department of Justice entered into a settlement agreement, or "Consent Decree," requiring the City government to implement reforms "with the goal of ensuring that police services are delivered to the people of Seattle in a manner that fully complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States, effectively ensures officer and public safety, and promotes public confidence..."; and

WHEREAS, the case of *United States v. the City of Seattle* is adjudicated by The Honorable James L. Robart of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Merrick Bobb served as the original Seattle Monitor from 2013 through 2020 and was succeeded by Dr. Antonio Oftelie in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2020, the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer and the subsequent protests caused local governments to acknowledge the history of institutional racism within their criminal justice and law enforcement systems; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR  
CONCURRING, THAT:**

Section 1. The City finds and declares that:

A. Seattle residents, workers, students, and visitors deserve to be safe, feel safe, and receive respectful and effective services from the City's first responders, who play a critical role in guarding against loss of life and property and ensuring that the public has confidence that its government will create and maintain safe and thriving neighborhoods.

B. The Seattle Fire Department (SFD) has expanded its services to provide specialized care to some of the City’s most vulnerable members through its Mobile Integrated Health Program. As part of this program, Health One dispatches units that are staffed by a team of firefighters and a civilian social worker to help with non-emergency calls, including transport, provider referrals, and behavioral health support. In addition, SFD launched the Health 99 program in 2023 to tackle the public health and safety impacts of the opioid and fentanyl crisis, specifically by dispatching emergency medical responders quickly to respond to overdose calls and provide follow-up outreach services.

C. SFD firefighters continue to provide the core services the City’s fire service is known for, including responding to 112,320 fire and medical emergency events in 2024, a slight increase over the 111,319 responses in 2023, but a 23.2 percent increase over the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

D. In 2024, 59 percent of all SFD responses were classified as “Basic Life Support,” 27 percent were fire response, 13 percent were for “Advanced Life Support,” and 0.4 percent were “mutual aid and special operation” responses.

E. Firefighters responded to 459 events in 2024 that were classified as “scenes of violence,” a slight decrease from the 494 in 2023, but a 35.8 percent increase over the pre-pandemic year of 2019. In 2024, firefighters had to request an expedited police response to 150 events, including “help the firefighter” responses. The synthetic opioid crisis has contributed to increased risk for the City’s firefighters.

F. The Consent Decree has established a foundation for constitutional policing in Seattle and has spurred the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to implement significant reforms over the past 12 years.

G. As recognized by the Court-appointed Monitor, SPD has gone above and beyond the Consent Decree in many areas, embracing a vision for the department centered on service-oriented and equitable policing, supported by rigorous internal systems of critical analysis. This commitment is evidenced by a notable decrease in the use of force, the expansion of transparent and leading-edge data analytics, adoption of new accountability systems and processes, and the growing national recognition of SPD’s achievements.

H. Between 2013 and 2015, SPD developed new policies and training relating to the use of force, force investigation and review, crisis intervention, bias-free policing, supervision, and stops and detentions. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the Monitor, and the Court approved each of these policies and trainings and by 2017, SPD had successfully passed all ten assessments conducted by the Monitoring Team.

I. The Court's January 10, 2018 order recognized the significant decrease in SPD officers' use of force and finding that "SPD has achieved full and effective compliance with the Consent Decree such that Phase I of the Consent Decree is now complete and the Phase II sustainment period should commence."

J. Between 2018 and 2020, SPD continued to demonstrate additional progress, such as expanding its internationally recognized data analytics program, including a research consortium comprising researchers from over 80 universities around the world, that is focused on driving best practices and advancements in the public safety sector. Along with these improvements, SPD continued to sustain the reduction in the use of serious force and continues today to review every use of force under SPD policy, which is a higher standard than constitutionally required.

K. As the 2020 protests unfolded, SPD faced significant criticism from the Monitor, accountability partners, and the public for its use of less lethal devices, including chemical irritants. In response to this criticism, including assessments from within the department, SPD revised its crowd management policy to reflect lessons learned from the protests. The Court approved the revised crowd management policy in February 2021.

L. In May 2022, the Monitor submitted a Comprehensive Assessment of SPD, recognizing that "Seattle has accomplished a great deal under the Consent Decree." The Monitor found that force was used in only 1.5 percent of crisis interventions in 2021, a 48 percent decline since 2015. The Monitor concluded that SPD had "sustained full and effective compliance with areas relating to crisis intervention, stops and detentions, and bias-free policing," as well as with the use of force, except during the 2020 protests. The Monitor made recommendations for improvement in the following four areas: crowd management, accountability, assessing

disparities, and data governance.

M. In March 2023, the City and DOJ filed a joint motion to terminate a majority of the requirements of the Consent Decree on the basis that they had been met.

N. In September 2023, the Court granted this motion in part, ruling that SPD had “achieved sustained compliance with the majority of the core commitments...” The order terminated the Consent Decree obligations regarding “crisis intervention, stops and detentions, bias-free policing, supervision, and the Office of Police Accountability” while holding open the following two areas: (1) “use of force in crowd settings” and (2) “ensuring a sustainable system of review and accountability regarding the conduct of officers and the policies and principles of SPD.” The Court stated it “is immensely proud of the efforts SPD has undertaken since this matter began in 2012. In particular, SPD has made tremendous improvements in its policies, methods of operation, and leadership with respect to the areas of use of force, stops and detentions, and crisis intervention. SPD’s efforts with respect to data collection and analysis, too, are like night-and-day when compared to the status of data collection and analysis before the implementation of the changes required under the Consent Decree. The court is also extremely proud of the constructive approaches to policing that have resulted from the efforts of the accountability triad of the Office of Police Accountability (‘OPA’), the Office of the Inspector General (‘OIG’), and the Community Police Commission (‘CPC’).”

O. In October 2024, OIG issued its Seattle Police Department Crisis Assessment report, concluding that SPD has continued to improve in its use of force and response to individuals in crisis. The report found that fewer than two percent of crisis contacts between 2021 and 2023 included any reportable use of force. It also noted that in its observations, officers “communicat[ed] effectively with subjects and attempt[ed] to de-escalate incidents before resorting to force. When uses of force did occur, OIG consistently found them necessary, reasonable, and proportional to circumstances.”

P. The City Council and Mayor acknowledge and are proud of the significant reforms made by the officers and professional staff of SPD.

Section 2. With the passage of Ordinance 127182 on February 11, 2025, and the Mayor’s signing of the ordinance on February 14, 2025, the City is now positioned to address its outstanding crowd management obligations under the Consent Decree. Once SPD has updated its crowd management policies to comply with Ordinance 127182, the City Council and Mayor request that the City Attorney submit the updated policies to the Monitor and DOJ and eventually to the Court for review.

Section 3. The City commits to continuing to enhance the police accountability system, including supporting and maintaining a robust, effective, and civilian-led accountability system. Working in collaboration with SPD leaders, the City’s accountability entities set the highest standards of professionalism and excellence and hold officers accountable for policy violations that erode community trust.

Section 4. In recognition of the outstanding work of the City’s first responders, the City commits to the fair treatment of its first responders and affirms its obligations to:

A. Empower SPD, SFD, and Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department personnel to carry out their public safety mandate effectively and provide these vital City departments with the necessary tools, training, and resources to perform their critical work.

B. Recruit, hire, train, and retain police officers to enable SPD to be adequately staffed, meet response time goals, maintain the peace of the City, and hold offenders accountable.

Section 5. The City reaffirms its commitment to a diversified public safety response system, including the CARE Department. Following the successful launch of a dual dispatch pilot, which responds to wellness checks and person-down 911 calls with civilian first responders alongside SPD officers, the City is in the process of expanding the pilot citywide, seven days a week, and is committed to continuing to invest in community-focused, trauma-informed response options.

Section 6. The City recognizes that an effective, professional, and community-trusted police service that upholds the dignity and value of every person and holds offenders accountable is an essential function of city government. Through the adoption of this resolution, the City reverses any prior commitments or pledges to

defund or abolish SPD services or personnel which led to the resignation of hundreds of police officers.

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, and signed by  
me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

The Mayor concurred the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)