



King County

Metropolitan King County Council

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July 24, 2012

Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council
PO Box 3501
Renton, WA 98056

Dear members of the Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council:

We are writing for your input regarding King County's ongoing efforts to implement civilian oversight of the King County Sheriff's Office. Specifically, we are asking for suggestions of individuals to represent unincorporated King County on a new Citizens' Committee on Independent Oversight.

As you may know, the County Council adopted legislation to establish a system of civilian oversight of the King County Sheriff's Office and created the King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO). OLEO is charged with: 1) monitoring ongoing investigations of officer misconduct and helping to resolve cases; 2) increasing the level of public trust and transparency of the Sheriff's Office; and 3) identifying systemic issues within the Sheriff's Office and offering recommendations for reform.

As part of OLEO, a new Citizens' Committee on Independent Oversight is also being created. As set out in King County Code, the committee shall consist of eleven members: three members representing contract cities; four members representing unincorporated King County; and four at-large members. Appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council, members of the committee will serve three-year terms.

The role of the committee will be to advise the Director of OLEO on misconduct and discipline practices, other policies and procedures related to OLEO's responsibilities, and public perceptions of the King County Sheriff's Office. The committee will serve a critical role by connecting OLEO to the communities served by the King County Sheriff's Office and increasing public understanding and trust in the Sheriff's Office and its public complaint process.

Last year, the Council unanimously confirmed the appointment of Mr. Charles Gaither to serve as OLEO's first director. Mr. Gaither brings more than 15 years of law enforcement experience

to the position and was previously the Policy and Investigations Manager and Special Investigator with the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, Office of the Inspector General. The Citizens' Committee will have the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Gaither.

OLEO is an important means of assuring integrity, transparency, and accountability in law enforcement, and furthers the County's goal of supporting safe communities and accessible justice for all King County residents. OLEO will also reinforce a culture of customer service and help King County deliver services that are responsive to community needs. In addition, as an independent legislative branch agency, OLEO does not affect the budget of the Sheriff's Office.

Again, we are asking for suggestions of individuals to represent unincorporated King County on the new Citizens' Committee on Independent Oversight. We are looking for thoughtful candidates who are committed to promoting public safety and the value of civilian oversight of law enforcement. Nominations can be sent to Boards and Commissions Liaison Rick Ybarra, who will forward them as appropriate and can be contacted at (206) 263-9651 or rick.ybarra@kingcounty.gov.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to receiving your input about who should serve on the Citizens' Committee on Independent Oversight.

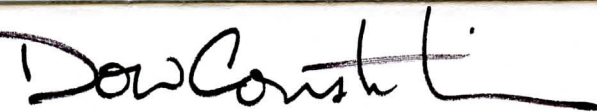
Sincerely,



Bob Ferguson
Chair, Government Accountability,
Oversight & Financial Performance Committee



Larry Gossett,
Chair, King County Council



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

cc: Steve Strachan, King County Sheriff
Charles Gaither, Director, King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight
Alan Painter, King County Community Services Area Manager