



Community Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Oversight

Date: 2/28/2022

Re: Communications with the Sheriff's office

Dear Interim Sheriff Cole-Tindall

As members of the Community Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Oversight, we welcome the opportunity to regularly hear from the Sheriff's office on issues relevant to our mandate. We would like to contribute to the goals established in the Charter for CACLEO. We recognize the Sheriff's office is in transition, but we would like to lay the groundwork for a successful and mutually productive relationship. We hope to assist you as well as your successor in fulfilling your challenging demands of providing the highest quality public safety with justice and equity. We share these goals and hope to educate ourselves and the community in working with you.

The Charter Section 265 provides:

The county council shall establish by ordinance an advisory committee for law enforcement oversight to review, advise and report on the office of law enforcement oversight in a manner that may be prescribed by ordinance. The committee *shall also advise the sheriff and the council on matters of equity and social justice related to law enforcement. The committee may also advise the sheriff and the council on systemic problems and opportunities for improvement in the law enforcement practices of the department of public safety.* [Italics added] ..

The implementing ordinance codified in 2.36.050 Community advisory committee for law enforcement oversight provides:

D. The committee shall:

1. Serve as a liaison between the office of law enforcement oversight and the communities it serves.
2. Advise the office of law enforcement on systemic problems and opportunities to improve law enforcement training, policies, and practices.
3. Advise the sheriff's office and the council on matters of equity and social justice related to law enforcement *including opportunities to reduce criminal justice involvement, decrease recidivism, abate inequities, and enhance fairness in the justice system.* [Language beyond the charter language]
4. Advise the sheriff and the council on systemic problems and opportunities for improvement in the law enforcement practices of the sheriff's office. [Emphasis added]
[Adopted by the full council September 2018]

CACLEO's charge is somewhat different and broader than the specific duties of OLEO. Our members are volunteers from the community. We work with and listen to the communities in King County. In order to be knowledgeable and informed it is necessary for us to have the deepest understanding possible of your office's challenges and efforts.

We are aware that you share in these goals as well. We are concerned that we cannot provide useful thoughts on these issues if we do not have a deeper understanding of the Sheriff's Office's current policies, views and plans for equity and social justice. Nor can we suggest advice on systemic problems and opportunities without listening to your office's perspective and insights of both opportunities and impediments to improvements in law enforcement practices.

We look forward to working with you and thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to provide. I will be following up with your office to check your availability for our next meeting on March 17th.

Respectfully,

Abiel Woldu, Chair

cc. Council Chair Balducci

Councilmember Zahilay

Councilmember [Dembowski](#)

Councilmember Perry

Councilmember Kohl-Welles

Councilmember Reichbauer

Councilmember Dunn

Councilmember [McDermott](#)

Councilmember Upthegrove

King County Executive Constantine