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Office of Law Enforcement Oversight: Sheriff's Office should adopt a safety-focused traffic enforcement strategy

In a report sent to the King County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) earlier this month, King County's Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) presented recommendations on how the Sheriff's Office can develop an effective, overarching policy on traffic enforcement to leverage data and researched best practices.

This report marks the first policy review completed using OLEO's new [Community Guidance Framework](#). OLEO partnered with several community-based organizations to create this robust report using the knowledge and relevant lived experience of diverse communities, including those disproportionately impacted by policing. OLEO's partners on this report include: Congolese Integration Network, Eastside For All, People Power Washington, Transportation Choices Coalition, and with contributions from Washington for Black Lives, a project of Washington Community Alliance.

"This report embodies the power of comprehensive engagement and cooperation with community; we are so grateful to our community partners for sharing their on-the-ground expertise with us to shape these recommendations," said OLEO Director Tamer Abouzeid. "Issuing a report like this is not a final step, but rather a checkpoint on the road of continuous improvement. And that road is one that does not only involve OLEO and the Sheriff's Office, but also many other county mechanisms and decision-makers, all of whom are dedicated to the goal of making our streets safer and more equitable."

"We commend OLEO's approach to using traffic enforcement data and community input to support safer streets for everyone," said a representative from the Transportation Choices Coalition, a partner nonprofit working towards accessible transportation statewide. "We're particularly excited about the recommendation that King County reinvest any potential revenues from automated enforcement into community-led safety improvements. This is exactly the kind of systemic change we need to make our roads safer and more equitable."

"Historically, traffic enforcement has disproportionately targeted and harmed marginalized communities. We very much appreciated joining this partnership to create a report that offers strategies for pursuing equity and justice in traffic enforcement for King County," said representatives from People Power Washington, a partner organization dedicated to advocating for an equitable criminal legal system.

Community-based organizations that are interested in partnering with OLEO to deliver equitable, collaborative recommendations as part of future projects can [complete this form](#) or reach out to OLEOpolicy@kingcounty.gov.

Resources: [OLEO Report - Traffic Enforcement: Shifting Sheriff's Office Practices for Improved Road Safety](#)

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