



King County

King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO)

Community guide to law enforcement on King County Metro Transit and Sound Transit Rail

Transit Police



Transit Police Officers respond to and investigate crimes on transit and at transit properties not otherwise handled by local police. Officers patrol bus stops and routes, Link and Sounder rail lines and stations, bike storage areas, and Park & Ride lots. Transit Police uniforms identify the agency the officer works for, but officers also work in plainclothes on transit to enforce laws, code of conduct violations, and monitor for criminal activity.

Transit Police are part of the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and **do not** work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). **Learn more about your rights:** www.aclu-wa.org/know-your-rights
KCSO 24-hour non-emergency: 206-296-3311 | www.kingcounty.gov/sheriff

Metro Transit Police uniforms are black with a "King County Sheriff" patch
Metro Transit Police bicycle unit uniforms have two bright yellow stripes across the chest and arms
Metro Transit Police: 206-296-3311

Sound Transit Police uniforms are black with "King County Sheriff" and "Sound Transit" patches
Sound Transit Police non-emergency: 206-903-7676 | **Uniform Response & after hours:** 206-296-3311

Transit Security Officers



Metro and Sound Transit Security Officers (TSOs) serve Metro Transit Centers, the Passenger Ferry Terminal at Coleman Dock, Park & Ride locations, Transit Operational Facilities, Link light rail and Sounder rail stations. TSOs respond to safety issues and answer questions about service, routes, schedules or fares.

Metro TSO uniforms have black and yellow tops that say "Transit Security" across the back
Metro Transit Security: 206-553-3000 | www.kingcounty.gov/metro/safety

Sound Transit TSO uniforms have dark green tops that say "Transit Security" across the back
Sound Transit Security: 206-398-5268 | www.soundtransit.org/ride-with-us

Fare Enforcement Officers



Fare Enforcement Officers (FEOs) patrol Sound Transit Link light rail, Sounder rail, and all Metro bus routes with pay before you board "off-board fare payment" and all-door boarding, including RapidRide. FEOs ask riders inside a fare payment zone or on-board transit for proof of payment. If you don't have proof of payment, FEOs can ask for identification, issue fare evasion citations, and ask you to exit transit. FEOs may request support from King County Sheriff's Office Transit Police or local law enforcement.

Metro FEO uniforms are gray and black
Metro Enforcement: 206-263-FARE | www.kingcounty.gov/metro/safety

Sound Transit FEO uniforms are blue and black
Sound Transit Questions: 206-398-5268 | www.soundtransit.org/ride-with-us

Homeland Security VIPR Team



Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) teams, are Homeland Security Police, a part of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). VIPR teams can detain and search people while working with transportation and law enforcement agencies to prevent and deter acts of terrorism on all modes of transportation, including mass transit.

VIPR Teams wear uniforms that have black tops and tan bottoms with a large "Department of Homeland Security Police" patch across the chest | **Learn more online:** www.tsa.gov

*Uniformed personnel such as corrections officers, bail bond agents, and security guards regularly commute on public transit.



The Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) is an independent agency representing the interests of the public. We work with community members to hold the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) accountable for providing fair and just police services. OLEO's authority allows us to review the actions of the Sheriff's Office, and we receive commendations and complaints concerning KCSO employees.



You may file a commendation or complaint regarding any King County Sheriff's Office employee, including Transit Police, in person, by phone, online, or by mail. Commendations or complaints regarding TSOs, FEOs, and VIPR teams can be made to Metro, Sound Transit, or Homeland Security TSA directly.

Contact us: oleo@kingcounty.gov | 206-263-8870 | www.kingcounty.gov/oleo

KCSO non-emergency questions: sheriff@kingcounty.gov | 206-296-4155

The Sheriff's Office prohibits retaliation against any person who comes forward with concerns and complaints. KCSO employee commendations are shared with the employee, his or her supervisors, and the Sheriff, and a copy is placed in the employee's employment record.

More about OLEO's work



Reviewing Police Use of Force

When police use force that results in serious injury or death, OLEO attends the scene. OLEO later reviews the Sheriff's Office's internal investigations of these incidents and is also present during the Use of Force Review Board meetings.



Ensuring Greater Confidence in Misconduct Investigations

OLEO strives to make sure that the Sheriff's Office conducts investigations in a fair and factual manner that seeks to uncover the truth. It reviews the work of the Internal Investigations Unit (IIU), the Sheriff's Office unit that investigates complaints against its employees, to make sure that misconduct investigations are thorough and objective.



Incorporating Community Input into Sheriff Policies

OLEO looks at systemic issues, such as use of force, search and seizure, recruitment, and training, to identify trends in police practices and areas for improvement. OLEO typically reports its findings following such reviews and recommends changes to the Sheriff's Office. In addition, King County Code requires the Sheriff's Office to allow for OLEO's review of proposed policy changes before adopting them.



Cultivating Public Input and Engagement

The Community Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight members serve as links between OLEO and the public. OLEO staff also conducts public outreach. Community input informs OLEO's work and priorities. OLEO also provides updates and information through social media, its website, and its e-newsletter, the *OLEO Insider*.



Brokering Restorative Resolution of Disagreements

OLEO works with the Sheriff's Office to offer an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program in which a neutral third party facilitates a voluntary discussion between community members and Sheriff's Office employees to address complaints. The purpose of this program is to improve understanding between the parties.