

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Panel Presentation on Law Enforcement (Police) Accountability: Community Engagement, Transparency and Body Worn Cameras
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office
PRESENTED BY:	Jim Hammond, City Manager's Office
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The City of Shoreline (City) contracts with the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) for law enforcement services. Recent events, both locally and nationally, have prompted a significant degree of public interest in policy issues, as well as proposals for change, related to law enforcement accountability.

Tonight's panel presentation consists of two interrelated discussions around accountability and transparency. First, a conversation about the role of citizen engagement in oversight, and second, an in-depth look at a particular tool that is seen as enhancing transparency: body worn cameras.

Tonight's guest panelists include:

1. *Abiel Woldu*, a community advocate who currently serves as the Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CACLEO) for the King County Office of Law Enforcement and Oversight (OLEO);
2. *Major Jeffrey Flohr*, an employee of the King County's Sheriff's Office (KCSO), currently serving as part of the Command Team overseeing development of a KCSO pilot program for body worn cameras;
3. *Anthony Finnell*, an employee of the Seattle's Office of the Inspector General and a board member of the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE); and
4. *Jennifer Lee*, the Technology and Liberty Manager for American Civil Liberties Union of Washington.

There may be an additional panelist joining the Council tonight, bringing the perspective of local government, although that is still to be confirmed.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Tonight's discussions are intended to provide information to Council on key topics related to law enforcement accountability in advance of its Strategic Planning Workshop in March 2021. There is no direct financial impact. If KSCO were to implement the use of police body worn cameras for contract cities, such as Shoreline, there would likely be additional costs incurred by the City through its contract with KSCO.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required by the City Council. This information is intended to provide Council with information that could be used in deciding local law enforcement accountability policies.

Approved By: City Manager ***DT*** City Attorney ***JA-T***

DISCUSSION

As noted above, to facilitate this discussion, several guest panelists will be participation. Tonight's guest panelists are:

1. *Abiel Woldu* is chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight ([CACLEO](#)) for the King County Office of Law Enforcement and Oversight (OLEO), as well as a Communications Associate at the ACLU. The son of Eritrean immigrants and a lifelong South Seattleite, Mr. Woldu is a first-generation college graduate from the University of Washington, where he earned a double major in Economics and Political Science. Mr. Woldu was a leader in the development of CACLEO's advisory memo on body worn cameras: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/independent/law-enforcement-oversight/Documents/2020/CACLEO-Police-Camera-Advisory-Memo.ashx?la=en>.
2. *Major Jeffrey Flohr* serves as commander of the KCSO's 4th Precinct, which encompasses White Center, Skyway and Vashon Island. Major Flohr has been in law enforcement for 26 years (16 of them with KCSO) and spent the first ten years of his career as a police officer in the Bay Area of California. Major Flohr has extensive experience in Community Outreach including gang prevention, Youth Outreach, SRO Certification, Community Police Academy, Community Safety Instruction, and much more. Major Flohr's last command assignment was Commander of the King County 911 Center during which he led the implementation and launch of the *Text to 911* program for KCSO. Major Flohr also led the expansion of the online reporting system to include more than ten languages to assist community members with crime reporting in their native language.
3. *Anthony Finnell* serves as the Strategic Initiatives Lead for the Seattle Office of Inspector General. Mr. Finnell started his work in civilian oversight after a 23-year career as a police officer and sergeant for the City of Indianapolis, which included outreach and engagement with local schools and communities. As a Board Member for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement ([NACOLE](#)), Mr. Finnell has worked with communities across the country to build and improve civilian oversight of law enforcement.
4. *Jennifer Lee* is the Technology and Liberty Manager for American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington and has worked with the ACLU since 2019, studying the privacy issues related to body worn cameras. Ms. Lee has provided links for more information on body cameras. The first is a study conducted by Upturn in 2017, and the other two are articles talking about some issues with using body cameras.
 - a. <https://www.upturn.org/static/reports/2017/the-illusion-of-accuracy/files/Upturn%20and%20LCCHR%20-%20The%20Illusion%20of%20Accuracy%20v.1.0.pdf>

- b. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/08/opinion/bodycams-privacy.html>
- c. <https://www.fastcompany.com/90514774/we-spent-a-fortune-on-police-body-cams-why-havent-they-fixed-policing>

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