



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19125

Proposed No. 2020-0206.2

Sponsors Dembowski, Kohl-Welles,
McDermott, Zahilay and Balducci

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing to amend the King County
 2 Charter to grant the office of law enforcement oversight
 3 subpoena powers; amending Section 265 of the King
 4 County Charter; and submitting the same to the voters of
 5 the county for their ratification or rejection at the next
 6 general election to be held in this county occurring more
 7 than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance.

8 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

9 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for
 10 their ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this county
 11 occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an amendment
 12 to Article 2, Section 265 of the King County Charter, as set forth herein:

13 **Section 265. Office of Law Enforcement Oversight.**

14 The county council shall establish by ordinance an office of law enforcement
 15 oversight, which shall be a part of the legislative branch. The office shall have a director
 16 who is appointed by a majority of the county council to serve a term of four years and
 17 until a successor is appointed. The director may be removed from office at any time for
 18 cause by a majority of the county council.

19 The authority of the office of law enforcement oversight shall be prescribed by

Ordinance 19125

20 ordinance and should include: investigation, review and analysis of conduct of county
21 law enforcement officers that has been the subject of a complaint and the use of force by
22 county law enforcement officers regardless of whether it has been the subject of a
23 complaint; and review and analysis of internal investigations conducted and disciplinary
24 action taken by the department of public safety regarding that conduct or use of force.

25 The authority of the office should also include: the preparation and publication of
26 findings, conclusions and recommendations related to the office's oversight of the
27 department of public safety; and community outreach concerning the department of
28 public safety and the office of law enforcement oversight.

29 To enable the office of law enforcement oversight to exercise its authority
30 effectively, the office shall be authorized by ordinance to obtain all relevant information,
31 including authority to review and copy relevant department of public safety files,
32 subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence relating to its investigations or review
33 and administer oaths, inspect crime scenes, conduct interviews and participate in internal
34 investigations and review hearings. Any subpoenaed witness shall have the right to be
35 represented by counsel.

36 The county council shall establish by ordinance an advisory committee for law
37 enforcement oversight to review, advise and report on the office of law enforcement
38 oversight in a manner that may be prescribed by ordinance. The committee shall also
39 advise the sheriff and the council on matters of equity and social justice related to law
40 enforcement. The committee may also advise the sheriff and the council on systemic
41 problems and opportunities for improvement in the law enforcement practices of the
42 department of public safety. The county council shall prescribe by ordinance the

Ordinance 19125

43 committee's membership, qualifications, and rules and procedures, and the process for
44 appointment of committee members, and may prescribe by ordinance additional duties of
45 the committee.

46 SECTION 2. The clerk of the council shall certify the proposition to the manager
47 of the elections division, in substantially the following form, with such additions,
48 deletions or modifications as may be required by the prosecuting attorney:

49 Shall Section 265 of the King County Charter be amended to enable the
50 office law enforcement oversight to subpoena witnesses, documents and

Ordinance 19125

- 51 other evidence related to its investigations and reviews of county law
- 52 enforcement officers?
- 53

Ordinance 19125 was introduced on 6/9/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/7/2020, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Kohl-Welles,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Upthegrove, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr.
Zahilay
No: 1 - Ms. Lambert

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:
Claudia Balducci
F8830816F1C4427...

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Melani Pedroza
8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 7/16/2020.

DocuSigned by:
Dow Constantine
4FBCAB8196AE4C6...

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None