

From: Kathryn Ragsdale <kathrynragdalesea@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Clerk, King County Council <Clerk@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: Police reform

Dear Council members,

As you discuss Law enforcement reforms, I want to advocate for a simple solution to create a safer and better law enforcement system. Currently, to join the King County Sheriff's Office, you must have only a GED or a High School Diploma, and about six months of training. This is less than a hairstylist. That is unacceptable.

There have been studies showing that LEO misconduct is inversely proportional to education; yet, we have allowed one of the most important and most dangerous jobs in the state to have the least hurdles to go through for employment. Six months training and you essentially have a gun and a license to use it.

My grandfather and great grandfather were police captains; they used to say that 1/3 of the force were good LEOs, 1/3 needed more training, and 1/3 shouldn't be allowed to have guns, let alone a badge. The requirement of a Bachelor's degree would weed out many of the "bad apples" by ensuring the candidates ability to critically think, and have resilience, self awareness and emotional control, and strategies for positive relationships.

By changing the requirements for the job, something that would cost the taxpayer little to nothing, you would gain a better law enforcement system and community safety, not to mention tax payers paying less for civil suits.

Evidence for my argument:

<https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/education-offers-best-solution-for-police-misconduct/>

https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4117&context=gc_etds

<https://inpublicsafety.com/2017/03/police-ethics-does-education-matter/>

Sincerely,

Kathryn Ragsdale
Burien Resident