

**From:** [dustin](#)  
**To:** [Von Reichbauer, Pete](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Fire Investigation Unit---ordinance to create a limited authority entity

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Good Afternoon Pete----I would like to schedule a time to discuss the below issue with you. My interest is to bring this issue before the GAO Committee for discussion and approval with a positive recommendation to the entire council.

The Fire Investigation Unit is currently part of the Sheriff's Office, and that model is no longer workable for the reasons outlined below.

Dustin

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**From:** Dustin Frederick  
**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 3:23 PM  
**To:** 'Alessi, Sasha' <Sasha.Alessi@kingcounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Marengo, Jose E <Jose.Marengo@kingcounty.gov>; Seo, Stanley <Stanley.Seo@kingcounty.gov>; Anderson, Jesse <Jesse.Anderson@kingcounty.gov>; Patti Cole-Tindall (Patti.Cole-Tindall@kingcounty.gov) <Patti.Cole-Tindall@kingcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FIU - SOP and Small Table bargaining

Good afternoon---on my work list today is/was to draft a letter to the Sheriff and each of you requesting that you support the creation of a limited authority Fire Marshal's Office based on the Snohomish County model.

The primary reason is Safety. We are Absolutely convinced that there is no way you can provide adequate safety for the Fire Investigators, or the Deputies assigned to provide it for the Investigators. The short list is as follows.

- Not enough Deputy staffing
- Deputies must be posted too far away from investigation site to provide safety for the Investigators and if they are posted close to the site---it is **unsafe for the Deputies and their families due to contamination of clothing.**
- Deputies have been---and will be---- routinely pulled away from investigation sites for more emergent details. This has repeatedly occurred already over the last several months
- Using Deputies to date has been and will continually be an extremely inefficient use of resources and totally ineffective.

As mentioned, the above is a "short " list of the issues that have been present since the

Investigators job functions were unilaterally changed and their commission changed. I have proposed viable alternatives that have been rejected, and we cannot procrastinate any longer---it is too dangerous.

**There is no service model within the KCSO that is workable given the self-imposed constraints the Department has put on itself and the Investigation Unit.**

**The only workable model within the Sheriffs Office is to return to the prior model wherein the Investigators were armed and able to provide for their own safety as well as others at or near the investigation site.**

**This is the model that has worked flawlessly for the last seventeen years without incident.**

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As I mentioned at our last meeting my preference was to resolve this issue internally but that is apparently not possible.

Therefore, I am asking---on behalf of the Fire Investigation team--- that the KSCO fully support a transition of the Fire Investigation Unit from the KCSO to a newly created King County Fire Marshal 's Office with limited commission authority using the Snohomish County model.

It is the most effective, efficient, and responsible way to resolve the ongoing safety issues associated with the current service model.

I am hopeful you will support this change and work with me to convince the Executive and Council that it is the right and ---“safe”----answer to this current situation.

Your thoughtful consideration of this proposal would be honored and appreciated.

Dustin Frederick, Business Manager, Public Safety Employees Union