



KING COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

AUGUST 2, 2019

Follow-up on Noise Code: Changes Untested on Difficult Cases; Training and Guidance Could Help

King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) consulted with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) on noise code enforcement and issued training to deputies, but has yet to update policy. Our audit found challenges to noise code enforcement in difficult situations because deputies were unclear on how to implement the code. In response to our recommendations, KCSO clarified its approach to noise enforcement and developed a training that it rolled out to all commissioned staff on March 26, 2019.

The additional clarity and communication will facilitate effective implementation of the noise code, giving deputies the tools to assist in relieving county residents of bothersome noise problems.

Of the two audit recommendations:

	1 DONE		1 PROGRESS		0 OPEN
Fully implemented Auditor will no longer monitor.		Partially implemented Auditor will continue to monitor.		Remain unresolved Auditor will continue to monitor.	

Please see below for details on the implementation status of these recommendations.



Recommendation 1

DONE



The King County Sheriff's Office should provide training to deputies and front-line managers on how to use the tools provided in the code to address noise complaints.

STATUS UPDATE: KCSO developed an online training for deputies that provided guidance on how to implement the revised noise code. The training went live on March 26, 2019; all commissioned staff are required to complete it by the end of the year. As of June 10, 2019, 90 percent of commissioned staff had been trained. Eighty-two percent of sergeants have received training (indicated in the recommendation as front-line managers).

IMPACT: Now that the majority of staff have received training, deputies are better-equipped to effectively handle noise complaints in line with county code.

Recommendation 2

PROGRESS



The King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) should consult with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office on how KCSO should handle noise enforcement, develop policies to clarify its approach, and communicate these policies to deputies.

STATUS UPDATE: KCSO senior staff met with the PAO in September 2018 and discussed how to resolve challenges in noise code implementation. The PAO provided relevant case law and suggestions for KCSO to clarify procedure so that deputies would have the necessary knowledge to correctly enforce the code. KCSO used this information to develop the training discussed in Recommendation 1.

KCSO did not develop written policies to clarify its approach but notes that it is in the process of doing so now.

WHAT REMAINS: KCSO needs to update the General Orders Manual (or other policy document) to provide guidance on how to effectively enforce the noise code.

Laina Poon, Principal Management Auditor, conducted this review. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the King County Auditor's Office at KCAO@KingCounty.gov or 206-477-1033.