

What Does OLEO Deliver?

Accountability Perspective

The Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) represents the interests of the public in its efforts to hold the King County Sheriff's Office accountable for providing fair and just police services. OLEO was established by the county council in 2005 and expansion of its authority was approved by voters in November 2015.

Review of Police Shootings

OLEO is called to the scene of incidents when police use force that results in serious injury or death to observe the processing of the scene. OLEO later reviews the Sheriff's Department's internal investigations of these incidents and attends the Use of Force Review Board meetings as a non-voting member. OLEO can ask questions and offers a community perspective.

Greater Confidence in Internal Investigations

OLEO reviews investigations the Sheriff's Office conducts of its own employees to ensure the investigations are conducted in a manner that seeks to uncover the truth. To do this, OLEO determines whether the investigations are thorough and objective by addressing issues such as conflicts of interest, ensuring that all relevant parties or witnesses are interviewed and all evidence is collected in a timely manner, and requiring that interviews be conducted in a fair and factual manner.

Independent Investigations

Part of the November 2015 voter mandate to expand OLEO's authority gave OLEO the authority to conduct independent investigations of police use of deadly force and misconduct complaints. That authority is currently in collective bargaining with the King County Police Officer's Guild and therefore not yet implemented.

Recommending Reforms Based on Data, Trends and Practices

OLEO looks at systemic issues such as use of force, recruitment, training, and search and seizure to identify trends in police practices and areas for change and improvement. Typically, an OLEO systemic review will result in a public report and recommendations to the Sheriff. OLEO then seeks to work with the Sheriff on implementation of recommended changes.

Community Input into Sheriff Policies

The Sheriff's Office is required to run policy changes by OLEO before adopting them, unless urgent circumstances for implementation exist. OLEO regularly provides recommendations to the Sheriff's Office on its policies and practices. OLEO's recommendations to the Sheriff and how to access the final policies can be found on [OLEO's website](#).

Cultivating Public Input and Engagement

The Community Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight members serve as liaisons between OLEO and the public. OLEO staff does outreach by attending town halls, community meetings and festivals in areas served by the Sheriff's Office, and hires Summer Interns to help with field activities. The feedback we obtain from the community helps inform our work and priorities. OLEO also provides updates and information through social media, our website and our quarterly newsletter, the OLEO Insider.

Restorative Resolution of Disagreements

OLEO collaborates with the Sheriff's Office to offer an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program, where members of the public may opt to talk through a complaint they have with a Sheriff's Office employee with a neutral third party facilitating the discussion. ADR is an alternative to the traditional complaint and disciplinary process that can benefit all parties by advancing mutual understanding.