



City Council Presentation

January 22, 2026

IFIT-KC Update and ILA Modification (Seattle PD)

Chief Harden and Cmdr. Adams
Lake Forest Park Police Department



Presentation Outline

- Review of the Independent Investigative Teams (IIT) that are mandated by law.
- Update on Lake Forest Park PD's role as part of King County's IIT (KC-IFIT)
- Addition of Seattle PD to KC-IFIT due to the federal consent decree being lifted.



Initiative 940

- Passed by voters in November 2018
 - Mandates de-escalation, mental health, and first aid training for LE.
 - Modified the standards for use of deadly force by LE - Good Faith (Reasonable Officer standard) vs. acting with "malice"
 - Mandates independent investigations for uses of force by LE resulting in death, substantial bodily harm, or great bodily harm.



Independent Investigation Teams

RCW 10.114.011

- Except as required by federal consent decree, federal settlement agreement, or federal court order, where the use of deadly force by a peace officer results in death, substantial bodily harm, or great bodily harm, an independent investigation must be completed to inform any determination of whether the use of deadly force met the good faith standard established in RCW 9A.16.040 and satisfied other applicable laws and policies. The investigation must be completely independent of the agency whose officer was involved in the use of deadly force and conducted in accordance with chapter 43.102 RCW.



Independent Investigation Teams

WAC 139-12-030

(Five fundamental principles of independent deadly force investigations)

- Independence: Procedural regulations for independent investigations are designed prohibit undue influence, or the appearance of undue influence, by the involved agency
- Transparency: Community representative review of investigation (2 per incident)
- Communication: IIT family liaison and weekly press releases
- Credible process: Best practices approach, established and updated by CJTC
- Credible investigators: Vetting of detectives and lead investigators. 3 years minimum experience as an investigator, advanced training, no sustained allegations of serious misconduct.



Independent Investigation Teams

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER!

- Independent investigations of officer-involved uses of deadly force are ***criminal investigations***, not administrative investigations



IFIT-KC Agencies





IFIT-KC and Lake Forest Park PD

- The Department has participated in this team since the initiative began
- Assignments to IFIT-KC are ancillary to duties at PD
- LFP PD currently staffs one Assistant Commander role and two detective positions on IFIT-KC
- **For 2026:** Adding three detectives to the team, certifying one as a lead investigator



IFIT-KC and Seattle PD



- Seattle PD federal consent decree in 2012
- Satisfied consent decree requirements 9-3-25
- Washington law requires that SPD join a local IIT
- Temporary MOU with KCSO
- Requesting a more permanent solution by joining KC-IFIT
- WA Attorney General's Office of Independent Investigations has declined to take over Seattle due to staffing



IFIT-KC and Seattle PD



- SPD averages between 2 and 4 use of force incidents per year that would require a team activation.
- SPD will bring considerable resources to IFIT-KC which will lessen the burden on existing KC-IFIT agencies for those incidents outside of Seattle:
 - Commanders
 - Supervisors
 - Lead Investigators
 - Detectives
 - Evidence Technicians



Proposed Resolution

- Authorizes the Mayor to sign a modification to the existing IFIT-KC Interlocal Agreement adding Seattle PD as an included agency and clarifying IFIT-KC protocols.



Questions?

Thank you!

Chief Mike Harden

Cmdr. Ross Adams