

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

The Council's Pledge to reform Police Use-of-Force Department policies

Nathan D. McCommon, Deputy City Manager
City Manager's Office

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

As a result of the final report and recommendations from the Office of Independent Review (OIR) Group concerning police use of force policies as presented to Council on April 12, the City is now implementing reforms as directed by the final step of the [Council's Pledge](#). Staff will share progress on responding to the recommendations, including expected actions over the next 12 months.

No Council action is needed. Tonight's presentation is an opportunity for the Council to hear how the City is being responsive going forward.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

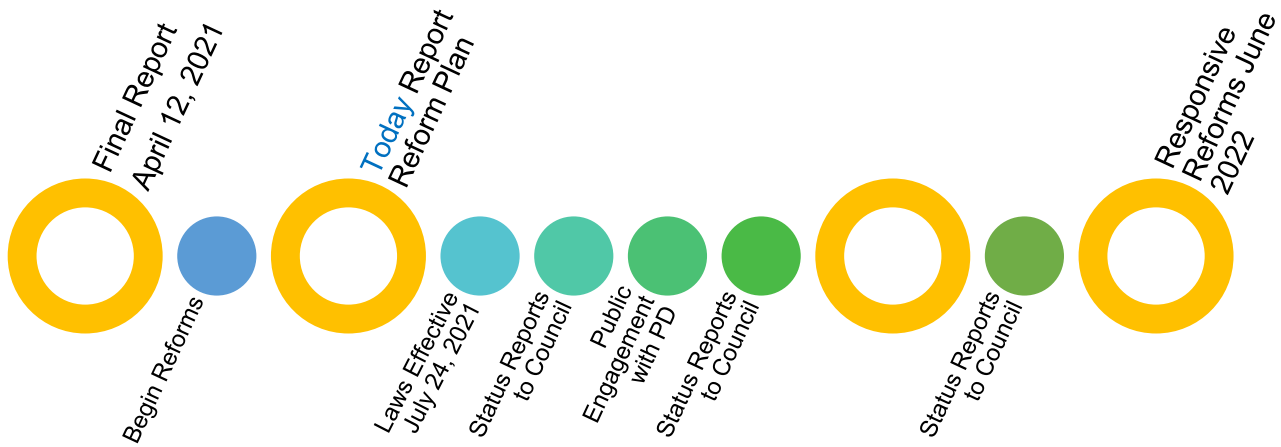
BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

On June 11, 2020, Mayor Lynne Robinson, with the support of the Council, pledged to review police use of force policies to identify any potential reforms. The review also includes identifying any potential guidance that might lead to an unacceptable use of force. The Council has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to ensuring that Black people and other people of color are safe and respected. The following is the text of the pledge.

- I. **Review** police use of force policies.
- II. **Engage** the community by including a diverse range of input, experiences and stories in the review.
- III. **Report** the findings of the review to the community and seek feedback.
- IV. **Reform** police use of force policies.

On April 12, 2021, following a lengthy public process through each step of the Pledge, the OIR Group presented its recommendations to the Council. From that day forward, the City has been actively advancing strategies to respond to all 47 recommendations.

In addition to responding to the recommendations of the OIR Group, the Washington state legislature adopted new laws that affect police use of force policy and practice. Those laws take effect July 24, 2021.



During the course of the next 12 months, Police Department administration commits to returning to Council with reports on the status of implementing the reforms to use-of-force policies until such time as adjustments have responded to the recommendations of the OIR Group. In addition, over the next year, the Police Department will continue to welcome and engage the public in consultation on policing practices in Bellevue to remain transparent, improve service, and build community trust.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The Pledge prompted reforms to use of force policies of the Police Department. Implementation of reforms has begun and will take the next year to fully adjust for compliance with new laws, corresponding training, and technical lead time.

Fiscal Impact

Potentially new fiscal impacts are yet to be determined. Most recommendations that present a cost are already budgetarily achievable within the adopted budget. Some law changes may prompt advancing equipment purchases sooner than estimated.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. Office of Independent Review – Report and Final Recommendations

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A