



February 10, 2022

Honorable Members of the Pierce County Council:

Consistent with the intention and spirit of Council Resolution 2020-43, we are submitting for your consideration a proposed Civilian Review Board that will assure timely, thorough, and objective reviews of complaints alleging inappropriate uses of force or allegations of serious misconduct by employees of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

The proposal was prepared by the Criminal Justice Workgroup, a team of senior County staff we appointed in accordance with our positions as Executive, Prosecuting Attorney, and Sheriff. They previously reviewed data and reported to you on disproportionalities in the use of force by deputies. The group's next task is to examine and report on the outcomes at various stages of the criminal justice system (i.e., charging, bail, diversion, negotiated pleadings, and sentencing), which is anticipated in the coming weeks.

Community support for—and trust in—law enforcement is essential for public safety. Community members need to know their concerns will be taken seriously, and our law enforcement personnel must have confidence that their professionalism and integrity will be bolstered by a respectful yet thorough review process.

The thoughtful proposal developed by the Criminal Justice Workgroup will bring more transparency and visibility into the existing complaint investigation process. Much like our new bodycams and dashcams, this is good for our deputies as well as the public they serve. We commend and endorse the enclosed Civilian Review Board proposal. Together, we urge you to advance this important next step.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bruce Dammeier in blue ink.

Bruce Dammeier
Executive

Handwritten signature of Mary Robnett in blue ink.

Mary Robnett
Prosecuting Attorney

Handwritten signature of Ed Troyer in blue ink.

Ed Troyer
Sheriff

Encl: Civilian Review Board Proposed Ordinance