

Dear County Council members,

I continue to watch and appreciate the work of the Equity Review Committee as they wrestle with their roles and responsibilities in the transformation of the County's internal and external progress toward equity.

As you consider "substantial amendments" to budget ordinance 2022-30, I'd like to make a couple of points, hoping that you all had a chance to watch the ERC's April 14 regular meeting (<https://vimeo.com/699801917>).

If you saw that meeting, you know the group is struggling to understand the point of their having been given the exec's Civilian Review Board proposal minutes before being asked to discuss it as a group in their March meeting, so they could make recommendations at the April meeting. In the April 14 meeting, they expressed confusion, frustration and even suspicion over what they were being asked to do with the proposal, where it came from, why it seemed to them they were being asked to "check a box" and approve it, and what weight their recommendations even have.

With all that up in the air, it seems prudent to wait on allocating resources to a civilian review board that—unless the proposal is way further down the line than the ERC was being led to believe it was—is very preliminary and does not, to anyone's knowledge on the ERC, include any public input.

Second, there has been talk of the County instituting an ombuds position to allow the public to register their complaints against Pierce County Sheriff Department to an impartial, independent representative. In light of ...

- All Pierce County residents, staff and electeds have had to put up with concerning sheriff Ed Troyer, just since his taking office,
- AND that we're still waiting on his criminal trial (<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/tacoma/pierce-county-sheriff-ed-troyer-trial/281-01a83f41-cbea-426e-9732-5f9140195468>),
- AND considering that Troyer recently went on the right-wing King County Jason Rantz talk show (<https://mynorthwest.com/3379246/pierce-county-sheriff-defends-department-use-of-force/>) in retaliation to an Op-Ed ERC member Andre Jimenez wrote in *The News Tribune* (<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/article258898908.html>) about what the PCSD's *own data* says about its disproportionate use of force against people of color (... data that was presented to the Council itself just a few months ago),
- AND considering that Jimenez disclosed in the April 14 ERC meeting that *he and his family have received death threats* as a result of Troyer's interview with Rantz,

- AND considering that Troyer is a seasoned public relations professional who *should have known* that his decision to whip up listeners of the Rantz show could lead to trouble...
- AND considering that there is a NEW discrimination suit filed against PCSD (<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/suit-women-discriminated-against-in-pierce-county-sheriffs-department/>)..

... In light of all this, with the embattled sheriff striking out at yet another young black man, an ombuds position is critically needed now, independent of any plans to institute a Civilian Review Board.

There's much more to say about the ERC and their current struggles to define their roles and responsibilities (Why they're being told by Judy Archer that the county's DEI plan is for the County "as an employer," for instance, when the resolution clearly states that, "The policy shall guide *all* aspects of Executive department and Council decision making, including services, programming, policy development, budgeting, and employment.") ... but I'm most concerned now with the Council's plans for the Civilian Review Board and the ombuds position. The cart-before-the-horse nature of the CRB proposal itself, as well as the budget proposal, understandably agitate, confuse and frustrate the ERC—not to mention those of us watching hopefully for the transformative systemic change the original Resolution 2020-43 promises (https://online.co.pierce.wa.us/cfapps/council/iview/proposal.cfm?proposal_num=R2020-43).

Please listen to the ERC members who are thoughtfully wrestling with the issues before them as you move through this budget process and make plans for oversight of the sheriff department. In particular, in the April 14 meeting, Jmarie Johnson-Kola said, "If they {the Council} want this committee to be transformative, they have learning to do as well with us... in transforming the way they do work ... that results in transformation for the *entire system*."

Thanks for all you do,

Kristy Gledhill, South Sound Antiracist Project
District 7

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The South Sound Antiracist Project is building an active community of white people who are committed to understanding, adopting, employing and promoting anti-racist ideas, policies and actions in all their spheres of influence.

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