



## City of Seattle Legislative Information Service

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**Council Bill Number: 112993**

**Ordinance Number: 119805**

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AN ORDINANCE relating to the Police Department; establishing an Office of Professional Accountability Director's position within the Police Department effective January 1, 2000; setting term limits; and specifying the duties of the Director.

**Status:** Passed As Amended

**Date passed by Full Council:** December 13, 1999

**Vote:** 9-0

**Date filed with the City Clerk:** December 21, 1999

**Date of Mayor's signature:** December 21, 1999

[\(about the signature date\)](#)

**Date introduced/referred to committee:** November 1, 1999

**Committee:** Public Safety, Health and Technology

**Sponsor:** PODLODOWSKI

**Index Terms:** POLICE-DEPARTMENT, INTERNAL-INVESTIGATIONS

**Fiscal Note:** *(No fiscal note available at this time)*

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### Text

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Police Department; establishing an Office of Professional Accountability Director's position within the Police Department effective January 1, 2000; setting term limits; and specifying the duties of the Director.

WHEREAS, on August 19, 1999, a panel of citizens appointed by the Mayor issued its report on employee accountability within the Seattle Police Department and the process used to investigate reports of police misconduct; and

WHEREAS, after more than three months of investigation, this report concluded that although Seattle has a top-rate Police Department with no evidence of widespread corruption or misconduct, there is still room for improvement; and

WHEREAS, the report offered a series of recommendations to increase confidence in the Police Department's ability to maintain standards of professional integrity; and

WHEREAS, one of the recommendations contained in the report was the creation of an Office of Professional Accountability, headed by a civilian director, nominated by the Mayor and Chief of Police and confirmed by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, both the Mayor and Chief of Police are supportive of this recommendation; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. As requested by the Mayor and the Chief of Police, the following position is created in the Police Department effective January 1, 2000, subject to review and classification by the Personnel Director:

Program Category P10, Office of the Chief

Position	# of Positions	Type
Executive 3	One	1.0 FTE

Section 2. The Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) Director shall be nominated by the Mayor and Chief of Police and confirmed by the City Council. The Director shall be appointed for a three-year term, with the possibility of being reappointed for a second three-year term, for a maximum of six years.

The Director shall direct the OPA investigative process, classify all complaints, certify completion and findings of all OPA complaints, make recommendations regarding disposition to the Chief of Police, and build and maintain community outreach programs to educate the public about the OPA's role in ensuring professional standards for Police Department Personnel.

The Director shall report directly to the Chief of Police. The responsibilities of the Director shall include: regularly advising the Chief, as well as the Mayor and the City Council, on all matters involving the Police Department's investigatory and disciplinary functions; providing analysis to the Chief of Police regarding disciplinary action in order to promote consistency in discipline; reporting semiannually to the Mayor and City Council describing the work of the OPA and making recommendations for policy changes; evaluating the OPA investigation process; and, making recommendations on strategies and policies to improve complaint gathering, processing and investigative procedures.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Seattle this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_\_\_ and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the City Council

Approved by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk  
December 13, 1999  
(Ver. 1)

