



Bellevue Police Department

450 110th Ave. NE ♦ P.O. Box 90012 ♦ Bellevue, WA 98009 ♦ (425) 452.6917 ♦ fax (425) 452-6110

January 21, 2020

Bellevue Community Members
City of Bellevue, WA

RE: Bellevue Non-Law Enforcement Community Representatives for Independent Force Investigation Team-King County (IFIT-KC).

Dear Bellevue Community Members:

This communication is a solicitation for up to five Bellevue community members interested in serving on the Independent Force Investigation Team-King County (IFIT-KC). Police officers are a vital element of the community and their authority is granted to them by the community. Nearly every day of their career, officers perform several roles within society and impact the lives of the community members they serve. In some tragic circumstances, officers use deadly force and in respect of the will of the people, these events will be investigated by an independent investigation team that will include two members of the community. Community members who volunteer for this position must be willing to approach each investigation impartially and evaluate the investigative actions based on the evidence presented. Recruitment for Bellevue IFIT-KC non-law enforcement community members will be open January 21, 2020 to February 11, 2021.

BACKGROUND. In 2018, Initiative 940 was passed by the citizens of Washington and in early 2019 House Bill 1064 unanimously passed. This legislation was renamed to the “Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act” (LETSCA). Part of LETSCA requires that all police uses of deadly force that results in death, substantial bodily harm, or great bodily harm be investigated completely independent of the involved agency.

The Bellevue Police Department is working with our regional law enforcement partners to include; Washington State Patrol, King County Sheriff’s Office, Kirkland PD, Redmond PD, Clyde Hill PD, Issaquah PD, Mercer Island PD, Snoqualmie/North Bend PD, Duvall PD, Medina PD, University of Washington PD and Lake Forest Park PD to establish an independent investigation team which will be called the “Independent Force Investigation Team-King County” (IFIT-KC). IFIT-KC will investigate the use of police deadly force that occurs within Bellevue and the jurisdictions of the partner agencies. If a Bellevue officer is involved in a deadly force incident, Bellevue investigators will be removed from the investigative process and the incident will be investigated completely independent of the Bellevue Police Department. However, the investigation may include two Bellevue community representatives per the criteria set by LETSCA.

As stated in the LETSCA, transparency is the critical element of procedural justice that allows community members to assess whether the process of the investigation is conducted in a trustworthy manner and complies with the standards set forth in WAC 139-12 (attached). The goal of this requirement is to enhance police accountability, to increase community trust and to improve the legitimacy of policing for an increase in safety for everyone.

RESPONSIBILITIES. WAC 139-12 determines the scope of the non-law enforcement community representative’s participation. A minimum of two non-law enforcement community representatives who have credibility with and ties to communities impacted by police use of deadly force will be assigned to IFIT-KC during an activation to:

- a. Participate directly in the vetting, interviewing, and/or selection of the independent investigative team (IIT) investigators.

- b. Review conflict of interest statements submitted by the investigators within 72 hours of the commencement of each investigation.
- c. Be present at the briefings with the involved agency chief.
- d. Have access to the investigation file when it is completed.
- e. Be provided a copy of all press releases and communication to the media prior to release.
- f. Review notification of equipment use of the involved agency.

Per WAC 139-12-030, the non-law enforcement community representatives must sign a binding confidentiality agreement at the beginning of each police use of deadly force investigation that remains in effect until the prosecutor of jurisdiction either declines to file charges or the criminal case is concluded. If the confidentiality agreement is violated, the non-law enforcement representative may be subject to prosecution under RCW 9A.76.020, obstructing a law enforcement officer and chapter 10.97 RCW, Washington State Criminal Records Privacy Act.

CRITERIA. The communities of each participating jurisdiction may differ from other participating jurisdictions. Therefore, for the total number of, and selection process for, community representatives shall be determined by each agency.

The selection criteria for the community representatives for the City of Bellevue are:

- a. City of Bellevue community member
- b. Be at least 21 years of age
- c. Submit a resume and letter of interest describing your background, community involvement and interest in serving as a community representative
- d. Successfully pass a criminal records check (For CJIS compliance since the candidate will have access to law enforcement sensitive information and personal identifying information (PII))
- e. Must be willing to attend some basic training that may enhance basic knowledge of proper investigation protocols.
- f. Able to meet the time and commitments required of the Non-Law Enforcement Community Representative position

This is an unpaid position. Participation on IFIT-KC is a voluntary position, and it does not receive a salary, hourly wage or benefits.

Resume and letter of interest submission deadline is February 11, 2021. Please send your application materials to Bellevue Police Volunteer Marji Trachtman mtrachtman@bellevuewa.gov. You may also mail your application materials to:

M. Trachtman
Bellevue Police Volunteer Coordinator
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Mylett
Chief of Police

Attachment: WAC 139-12