



King County

Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO)

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OLEO responds to community concerns over Sheriff's Office employee conduct

Community members call for accountability and a shift in Sheriff's Office culture

The King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) has received an unprecedented number of public inquiries about allegations against a Sheriff's Office employee for posting an offensive meme and statements on Facebook.

This complaint has also been received by the Sheriff's Office which has opened an investigation. OLEO is not permitted to comment on pending investigations. However, OLEO will fulfill its duties to monitor and review the investigation to ensure that the investigation is thorough and objective.

In the meantime, OLEO has requested a meeting with Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht to discuss overarching community-voiced concerns about the organizational culture at the Sheriff's Office. OLEO wants to address community mistrust and help ensure the Sheriff's Office is working to improve the community's confidence in leadership and belief in the [organization's core values](#).

"Community members expect law enforcement agencies to fulfill their commitment to public service – which means creating a culture that builds trust and belief in their legitimacy and commitment to fair and humane policing," said Deborah Jacobs, OLEO Director.

OLEO recently published a Community Guide to the King County Sheriff's Office Complaint Process to help the public understand how the investigation of complaints are handled by the Sheriff's Office Internal Investigations Unit (IIU). It also highlights the role oversight plays in advocating for thorough, objective and timely investigations.

The Community Guide to Sheriff's Office Complaint Investigations can be [downloaded here](#).

Learn more about OLEO and the complaint process [here](#).