

OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Presentation for City of Olympia
1/31/2023

AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS

THE NEED AND THE LEGISLATION

ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE

BUILDING COMMON GROUND

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Governor's Task Force on Independent Investigations of Police Use of Force

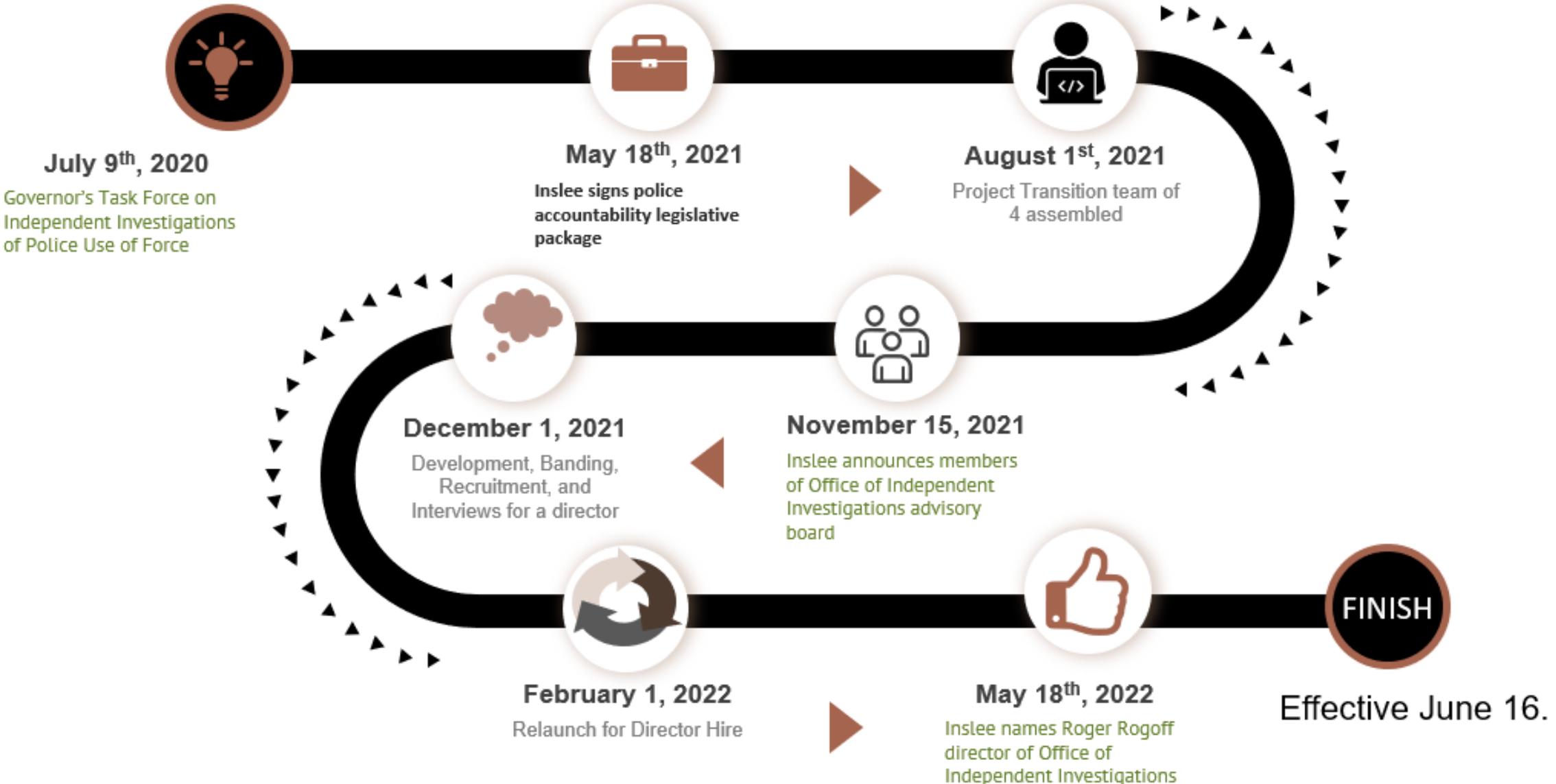


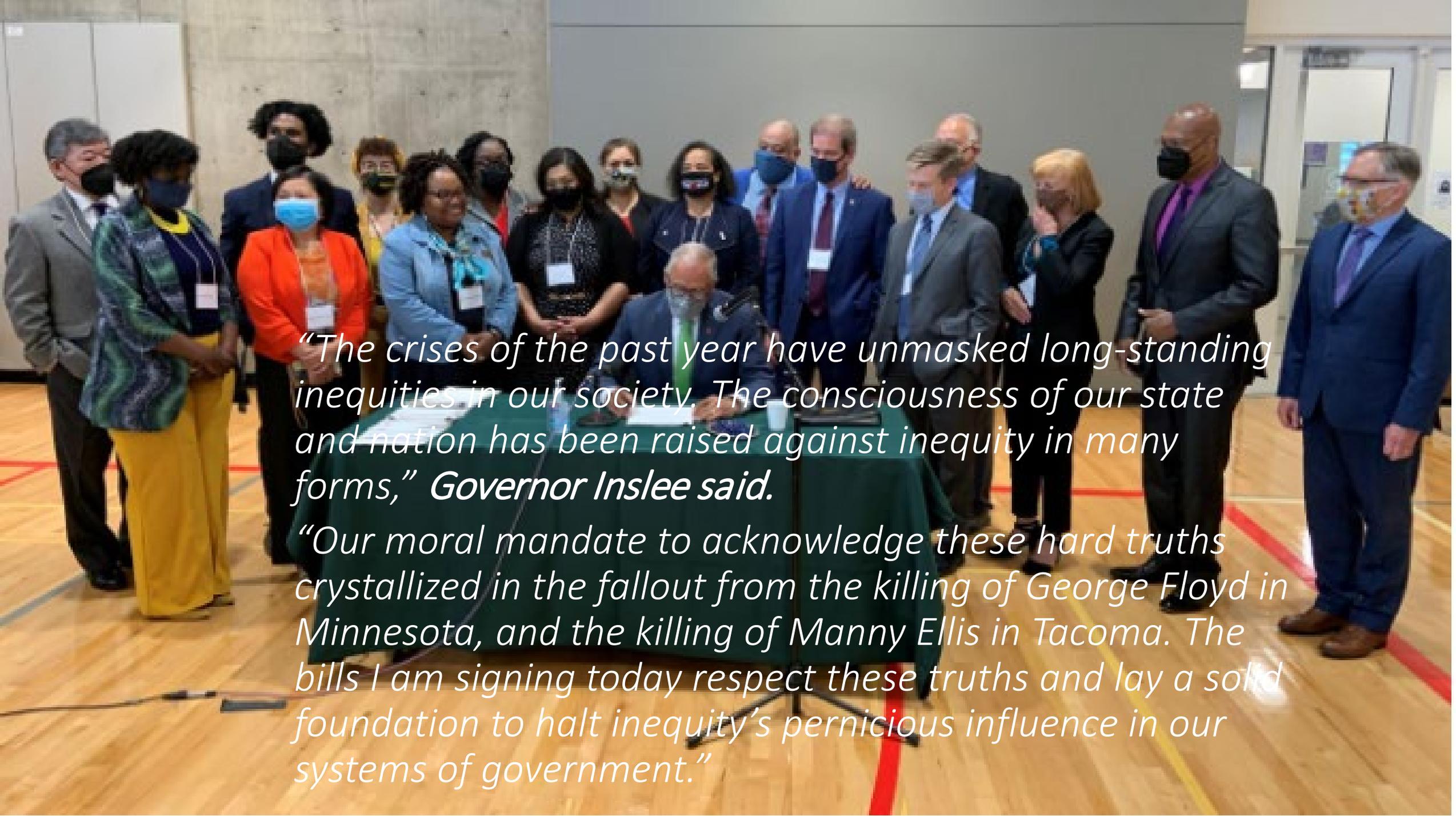
June 2020:

- Police accountability advocates
- Affected family members
- Law enforcement
- Other experts

To recommend legislation on independent investigations

Overview



A photograph of Governor Jay Inslee signing a bill. He is seated at a table covered with a green cloth, wearing a dark suit and a green tie. He is surrounded by a large group of people, including staff and officials, all wearing face masks. The setting appears to be a large, well-lit room with a wooden floor and a concrete wall in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, italicized font.

“The crises of the past year have unmasked long-standing inequities in our society. The consciousness of our state and nation has been raised against inequity in many forms,” Governor Inslee said.

“Our moral mandate to acknowledge these hard truths crystallized in the fallout from the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota, and the killing of Manny Ellis in Tacoma. The bills I am signing today respect these truths and lay a solid foundation to halt inequity’s pernicious influence in our systems of government.”

INTENT LANGUAGE

RCW 43.102

The legislature intends that the office of independent investigations be created to conduct investigations of use of force and other cases under its jurisdiction in a manner that is **competent, unbiased, and thorough**. The office will be **transparent and accountable** for its work. The office should ensure that it treats all people with **dignity and respect**. The director and staff must be qualified and trained to conduct the investigations, including training to **understand the impact and effect of racism** in the investigation and use of **an antiracist lens** to conduct their work.

RCW 43.102 – Key Authorities

- Creates OII within Office of Governor
- Fair, thorough, transparent, and competent investigations
- Law enforcement uses of deadly force statewide
- Director
- Advisory Board
- Investigators
- Family Liaisons
- Tribal Liaisons



Directive

- May investigate any incident:
 - **NEW:** Of a use of deadly force by an involved officer ... upon a person who is in-custody or out-of-custody; or
 - **PREVIOUSLY INVESTIGATED:** Involving prior investigations of deadly force if new evidence is brought forth that was not included in the initial investigation.
- 

How?

Crime Scene Investigations

- Call – Notification Line
- Discretion to Accept
- Hand-off
- Investigation
 - Competent
 - Thorough
 - Compassionate
 - Transparent
 - Via Anti-Racist Lens



USE-OF-FORCE INVESTIGATIONS BEFORE OII:

Independent Investigations Teams (IIT)

- Will consist of a team of qualified and certified peace officer investigators and at least two non-law enforcement community representatives who operate completely independent of any involved agency to conduct investigations of police deadly force incidents.

Involved Agencies

- A general authority Washington law enforcement agency or limited authority Washington law enforcement agency

LEGISLATIVELY ASSIGNED TASKS

- An investigative Law Enforcement agency.
RCW 43.102.010
- Analyze data and provide reports;
- Anti-racism training for staff and board
- Investigated by nonlaw enforcement officers.
RCW 43.102.050(3)
- Does not make existing IITs obsolete

Start-up - Priorities:

- **Hiring**
- **Outreach**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Policies / Protocols**
- **Training**

HELP WANTED!

**IF YOU'RE AWESOME,
PLEASE APPLY INSIDE!**

IF YOU'RE NOT, MAYBE TRY DOWN THE STREET...

Hiring

Investigator Hiring

Two Tiers

Sr. Investigators

- Experience with complex Investigations
- Likely former law enforcement

Investigators

- Investigative experience not required
- No LE experience needed
- Aggressive recruitment



Anti-Racist Hiring Practices



Plan for Civil Investigative Teams



Recruiting



Creating Office Culture – from ground up

1. Administrative Policies
2. Investigative Manual
3. IIT Protocols
4. Involved Agency Protocols

Protocols/Procedures

Training

Outreach to Build Common Ground

Community Groups

Way to Justice
Spokane Community Against Racism
Latino Civic Alliance
Washington Innocence Project
Community Safety Collaboration
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Washington Coalition Police Accountability
Seattle Community Police Commission
Washington State Commission Hispanic Affairs
Government Alliance on Race and Equity
Blacks United in Leadership and Diversity

Learning

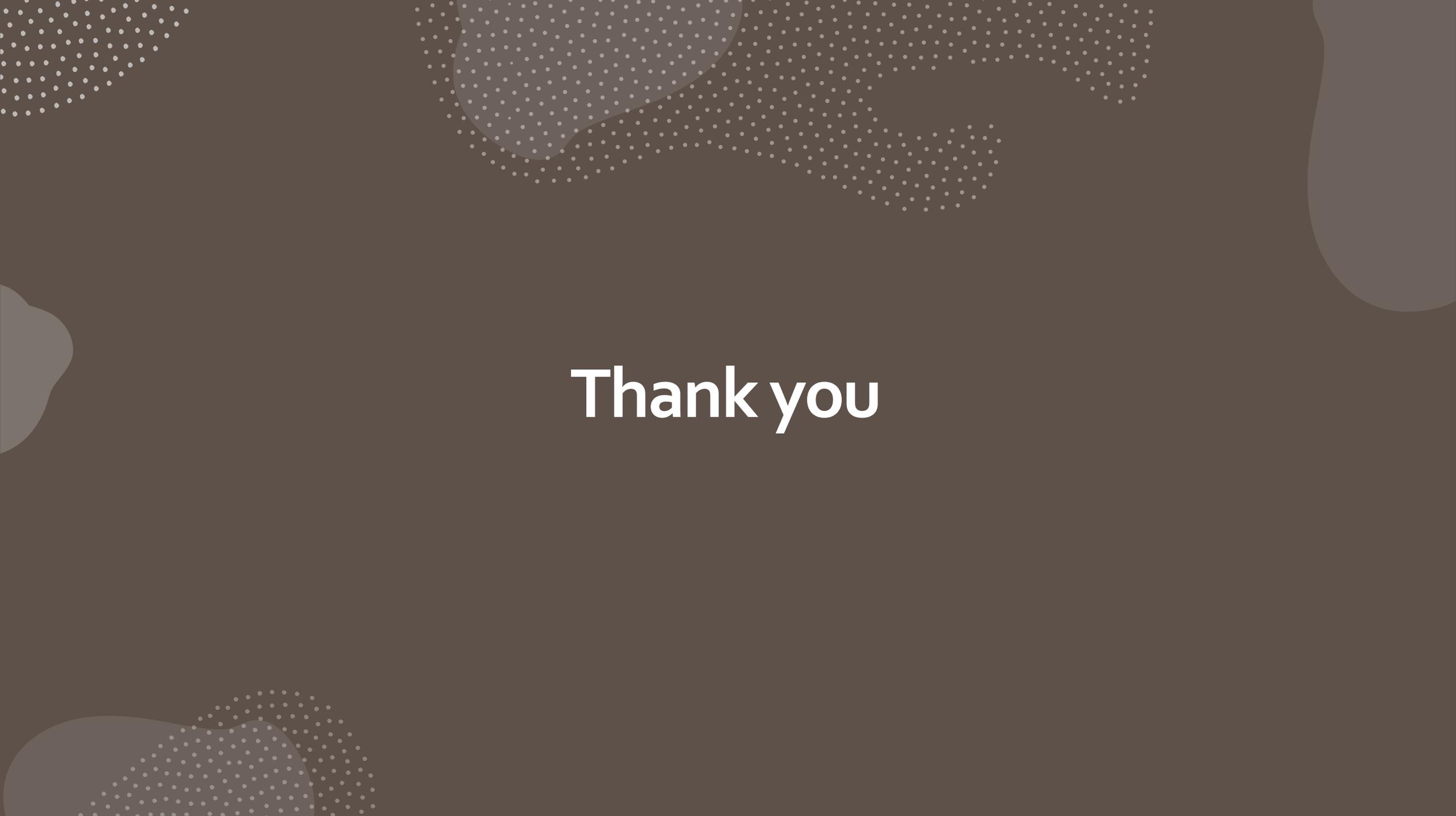
Law Enforcement

Valley Chiefs Executive Board Meeting
Kennewick Chiefs
Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Grant counties
King County Prosecutors Office
Pierce County OIFI Protocol
WA Cops
Washington State Patrol
State Auditor Office
Spokane Police Ombudsman
Skagit Island IIT
Washington Assoc. of Coroners & Medical Examiners
US Attorney's Office - Eastern District
Spokane Ind. Investigative Response Team
CJTC LECTSA Summit
Seattle Police Department
Washington Associates of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs

Questions?

Website -- oii.wa.gov

Email -- ContactUs@oii.wa.gov



Thank you