

# OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Presentation for City of Olympia  
1/31/2023

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# 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



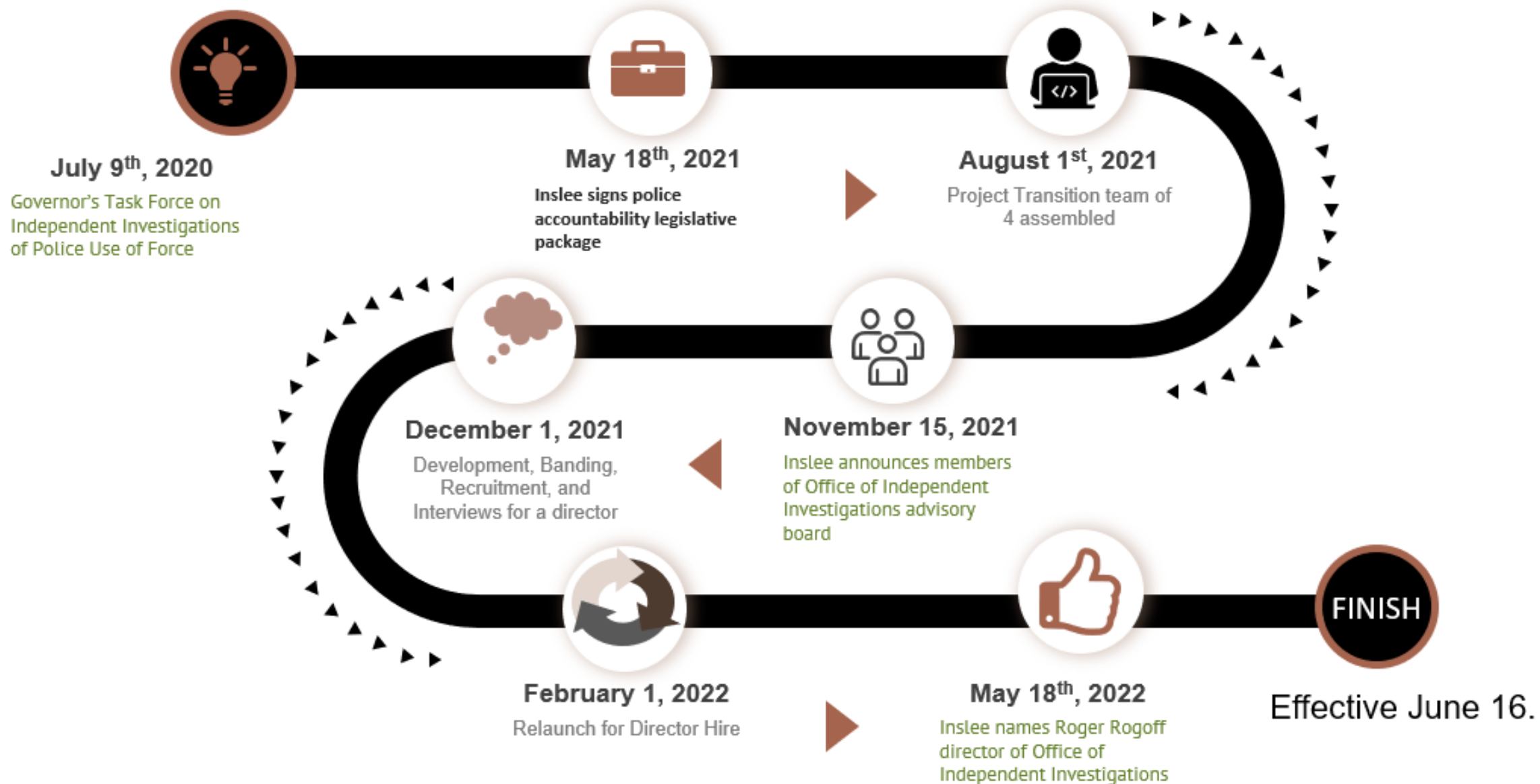
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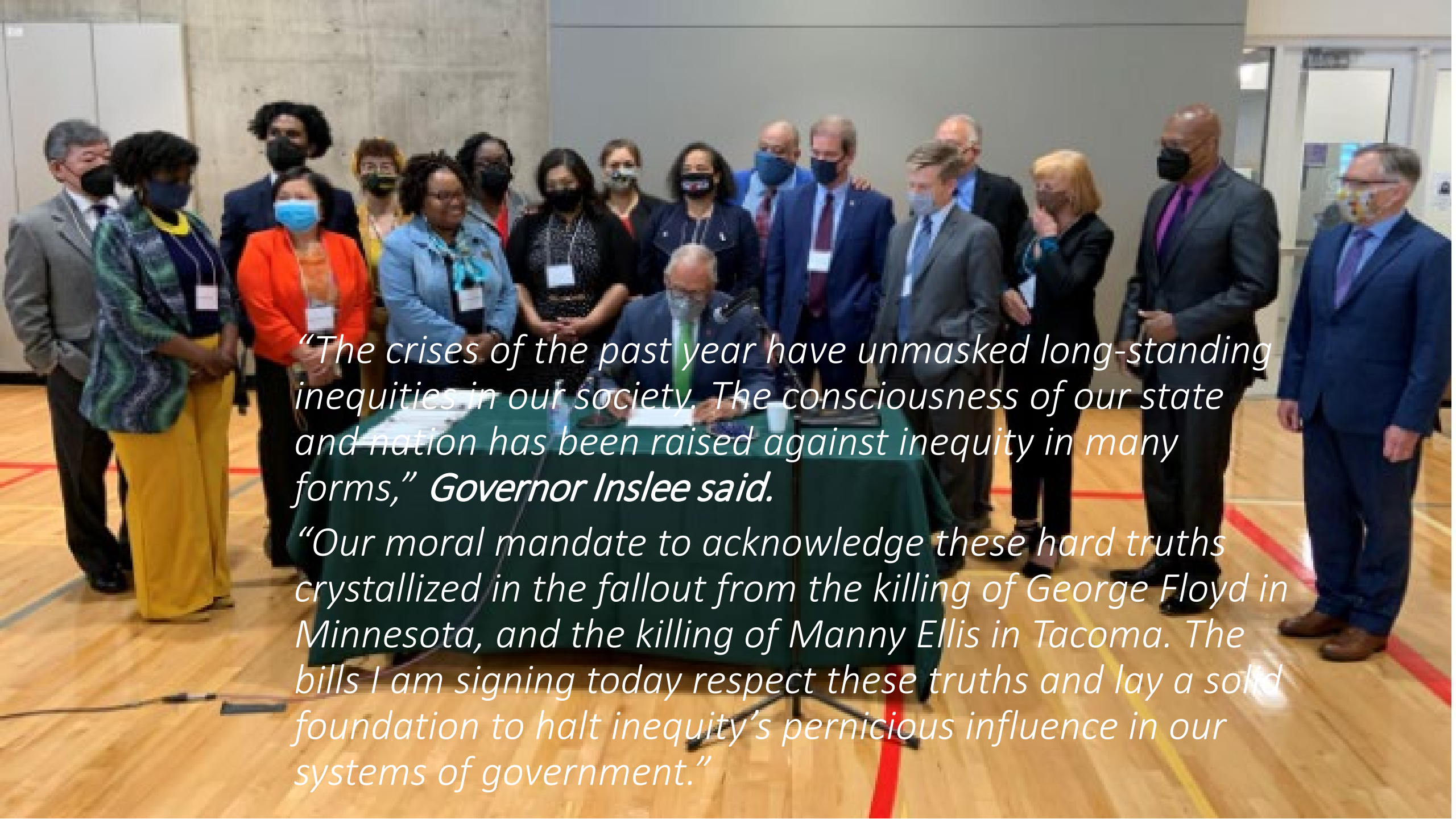
June 2020:

- 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 at a podium. He is wearing a blue suit and a face mask. Behind him, a large group of people, including staff and officials, are standing and watching. Many of them are also wearing face masks. The setting appears to be a large hall or gymnasium with a wooden floor and concrete walls. 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.
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# How?

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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](http://oii.wa.gov)

Email -- [ContactUs@oii.wa.gov](mailto:ContactUs@oii.wa.gov)

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**Thank you**