

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**

**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_**

..title

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Police Department; prohibiting training, exchanges, and partnerships with certain governments; and adding a new Section 3.28.141 to the Seattle Municipal Code.

..body

WHEREAS, as the City Council has affirmed in Resolutions 31858 and 31928, Seattle is a

Human Rights City that endorses the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it is committed to protecting and promoting the human rights and dignity of Native peoples and all residents and visitors to Seattle, including civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights; and

WHEREAS, through the passage of Resolution 31928, the City has affirmed Seattle as a

welcoming city, condemning all forms of oppression throughout the world, and stating that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations will continue to alert the Seattle City Council about international issues impacting Seattle and inform Councilmembers when City Council action could contribute meaningfully to a positive outcome; and

WHEREAS, it is the Seattle City Council's intent to ensure protection of the human rights as set

forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to all persons as they relate to biased policing activities and to require the policies, training, and data that safeguards against such activities in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, after a Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation found in 2011 that the Seattle

Police Department (SPD) engaged in an unconstitutional pattern of excessive force and bias, Seattle entered into a Consent Decree with the DOJ that requires the City to ensure that its policing services comply with the Constitution; and

1 WHEREAS, in Seattle and nationally, the increasing use of militarized units such as SWAT  
2 Teams, by the police has been demonstrated to disproportionately harm Black,  
3 Indigenous, and other People of Color; and

4 WHEREAS, even after nearly a decade of Seattle being subject to the Consent Decree,  
5 communities of color still experience disproportionate police use of force, as exemplified  
6 by the Seattle Police Department’s 2019 Annual Use of Force Report, which found that  
7 of male individuals subjected to use of force by Seattle police in 2019, 30 percent of  
8 those individuals were Black, while Black people constitute only seven percent of  
9 Seattle’s population; and

10 WHEREAS, in response to SPD’s well-documented complaints of excessive force, including  
11 chemical weapons against thousands of protestors during the Black Lives Matter  
12 uprisings in response to the murder of George Floyd in the late Spring and Summer of  
13 2020, the Seattle City Council took steps toward defunding SPD during the summer  
14 emergency budget vote and the 2021 city budget; and

15 WHEREAS, federal law, including 22 U.S.C. 2304, prohibits any United States law enforcement  
16 agency from providing security assistance to any country the government of which  
17 engages in a “consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human  
18 rights,” including “torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment,  
19 prolonged detention without charges and trial, causing the disappearance of persons by  
20 the abduction and clandestine detention of those persons, and other flagrant denial of the  
21 right to life, liberty, or the security of person;” and

22 WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, together with the International  
23 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols (on the complaints

1 procedure and on the death penalty) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social  
2 and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol, form the International Bill of Human  
3 Rights; and

4 WHEREAS, United Nations bodies periodically monitor states for compliance with these  
5 international human rights covenants that are part of the International Bill of Human  
6 Rights; and

7 WHEREAS, the Fourth Geneva Convention addresses humanitarian protections for civilians in a  
8 war zone, in armed conflicts where war has not been declared, and in an occupation of  
9 another country's territory; and

10 WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice, established in 1945 as the principal judicial organ  
11 of the United Nations, is responsible for settling, in accordance with international law,  
12 legal disputes submitted to it by states and to give advisory opinions on legal questions  
13 referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies; and

14 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle wishes to promote an encompassing vision for public safety that  
15 moves towards the abandonment of militarization and instead embraces other markers of  
16 wellness, such as respecting and protecting civil and human rights, and providing its  
17 people with access to resources including affordable housing, health services, and public  
18 transportation; NOW, THEREFORE,

19 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

20 Section 1. A new Section 3.28.141 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

21 **3.28.141 Training with certain countries prohibited**

22 The Seattle Police Department shall not participate in any training programs, exchanges, or  
23 partnerships with the military forces of any country, or the police forces, intelligence agencies,

1 security services, or other armed forces of any country, or engage in travel to any foreign  
2 country:

3 A. That is not party to the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights and the  
4 International Covenant on Economic Social & Cultural Rights; or

5 B. That has been found in the last ten years by an international court or United Nations  
6 body to have been in violation of either of these covenants; or

7 C. That has been documented by an international court or United Nations body to have  
8 committed violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention that have not been fully remedied to the  
9 satisfaction of the court or body that documented those violations.

10 Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
11 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
12 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

13 Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021,  
14 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
15 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

18 Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

1 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

4 (Seal)