



**CITY COUNCIL NOW SEEKING CANDIDATES
FOR SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD**

The City of Seattle City Council is seeking qualified citizen candidates for the Office of Professional Accountability Review Board.

The OPA Review Board, legislated in December 1999, will be composed of three citizens. The OPA Review Board is a key part of Seattle's system for police accountability, which also includes the Police Department's Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) and the OPA Auditor:

The OPA receives citizen complaints of officer misconduct, conducts investigations, and makes recommendations to the Chief of Police on the disposition of complaints. The OPA is headed by a civilian Director who reports to the Chief of Police.

The OPA Auditor audits all complaints to the OPA and all OPA investigations, and makes public reports on the audits to the Mayor and Council. The OPA Auditor is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

The role of the OPA Review Board is to review independently the OPA's handling of citizen complaints of officer misconduct. OPA Review Board members will be appointed by the City Council. The OPA Review Board will review completed OPA investigations, including redacted files of unsustained complaints, and will review the OPA Auditor's reports. It will report to the Council on issues, problems and trends in citizen complaints and in the resolution of the complaints by the Police Department. It will review the implementation of the OPA, including planned improvements in processes for receiving complaints and community outreach. It may conduct its own community outreach. It will advise the City Council on policies and procedures to improve complaint handling, ensure police accountability, and prevent officer misconduct.

Members of the OPA Review Board will serve two-year terms, and may be re-appointed. At least one Review Board member will be a member of the State Bar Association, at least one will have five years or more of law enforcement experience, and at least one will have significant experience in community organizing and outreach. Members must have a reputation for integrity and professionalism, the ability to protect confidential information, and a commitment to enhancing citizen oversight of police conduct. Members must be citizens of Seattle, be at least 21 years of age, and not have been convicted of a felony. Other eligibility requirements are contained in the Seattle Municipal Code. Nominees for membership will be subject to background checks by the Police Department.

Councilmember Jim Compton, chair of the Public Safety Committee, considers implementation of the OPA Review Board a major step toward improving relations between police officers and citizens, and helping officers avoid charges of misconduct due to lack of clarity about expectations. The role of the Review Board will be to help the Council and the City ensure fairness and accountability for officers and citizen complainants alike.

The deadline is February 5, 2002, at 5:00 p.m. To be considered, please send a letter of interest and resume to:

Seattle City Councilmember Jim Compton
Attn: Irene Namkung/OPARB
600 Fourth Avenue, 11th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104-1876

The City of Seattle is committed to promoting diversity on the City's Boards and Commissions. Women, persons with disabilities, sexual minorities, and persons of color are encouraged to apply.