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**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:52 AM

**To:** Clerk, King County Council <[Clerk@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Clerk@kingcounty.gov)>

**Subject:** TESTIMONY FORM - Urging Council to adopt Recommendations on Law Enforcement Reforms

Dear King County Council Members,

I urge you and support you strongly in your recommendations on Law Enforcement Reforms, specifically to make the KC sheriff an appointed rather than elected position, to reform inquest processes, and grant subpoena power to OLEO.

All of these, and other recommendations are absolutely crucial to me as a start to reform at the very roots our King County Law Enforcement.

I urge you also to go beyond this, and start taking steps to limit the role of police in the traditional activities they were trained for, part of the "Defund Police" discussion that is actually about reorganizing law enforcement and revamping police roles.

Lastly, as a resident of Burien, and having marked the 3rd anniversary on Saturday of the killing of a Burien resident, the unarmed 20-year-old Vietnamese-American young man about to graduate from high school the following day, Tommy Le, by Deputy Cesar Molina on 13 June 2017, I have particular concern about the sham investigation and highly improper behavior of police that led to this needless tragedy. I attended a hearing in this case in May of 2019, and noted the following points which i find, frankly, appalling:

1. Tommy was shot by Deputy Molina in the back at the angle of being at or near the ground. Witnesses state they saw nothing in his hands. The family's lawyer suggests a pen was planted on the scene.
2. Lawyers for the Le family allege that the Use of Force Review Board report, endorsed by Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht, is deeply flawed and involves a cover up.
3. Detective Johnson who accompanied Tommy's body to the hospital and the morgue, and thus knew he'd been shot in the back, told the family that same night that Tommy was killed because he tried to attack a policeman with a knife - but no knife or weapon was found at the scene. Police one week later said Tommy was armed with a pen.
4. The report changes the statement of Officer Owen standing next to Deputy Molina - earlier he made a sworn statement that he did not feel threatened and did not see a weapon, but the report says he "believed his life was in danger" and "the man had a knife in his clenched fist."
- 5.. The report covers up the fact that Tommy was shot in the back - an outrageous omission.
6. Other statements made by witnesses are excluded from the report.

7. Even the judge called the report "thin."

8. Given all the flaws of the Use of Force Review Board report, King County Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht endorsed the report. The law states the Sheriff has two weeks to order additional investigation, or file the report if he/she feels it is adequate. Johanknecht had the report filed, i.e. gave it her seal of approval.

For the sake of Tommy Le, Mi'Chance Dunlap-Gittens, and too many others, we must reform law enforcement in King County immediately, and engage in reorganizing at the roots the role of police in public safety as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Irene Danysh

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