



February 8, 2008

Seattle City Council Police Accountability Panel
P.O. Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

**Re: Support Prompt Implementation of the Police
Accountability Review Panel Recommendations**

Dear Members of the Council's Police Accountability Panel,

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
OF WASHINGTON
705 2ND AVENUE, 3RD FL.
SEATTLE, WA 98104
T/206.624.2184
WWW.ACLU-WA.ORG

On January 29, 2008, the Mayor's Panel on Police Accountability issued its final, unanimous report which contained 29 recommendations for improvements to police accountability and oversight. I was proud to be the ACLU representative on the Panel.

JESSE WING
BOARD PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As you know, Mayor Nickels has announced that he has accepted all 29 of the Panel's recommendations, and the ACLU urges you to endorse the recommendations as well. The panel worked collaboratively and productively to address a number of concerns that have arisen since the Office of Professional Accountability was created in 1999.

All of the recommendations are important and we believe that they will be most effective to improve the oversight, transparency and accountability if they are considered as a cohesive package. We understand that the Mayor is working with the Seattle Police Officer Guild to discuss a plan for implementing the recommendations as soon as possible.

While your charge is different from that of the Mayor's Panel, these recommendations are an important starting point for your work. There are many areas that we could not address due to time limitations and the nature of our task that your Panel could address. A strong statement of support from your group would help to further the move toward implementation of the recommendations.

This report and the energy it has generated, offer our city an exciting opportunity to make tangible changes in police accountability that will benefit all of the people of Seattle.

Jennifer Shaw
Legislative Director

Cc: Nancy Roberts, Advisory Panel Staff

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Councilmember Tim Burgess
Councilmember Nick Licata
Councilmember Richard Conlin
Councilmember Sally Clark
Councilmember Jan Drago
Councilmember Jean Godden
Councilmember Bruce Harrell
Councilmember Richard McIver
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen
Mayor Greg Nickels
Bob Scales