

## STATE OF WASHINGTON

## OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

PO Box 40270 Dympia, Washington 98504-0270 (360) 407-5699

November 18, 2024

Pat Sullivan, Director Office of Financial Management PO Box 43113 Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear Director Sullivan:

To address the state's initiative to reduce the operating budget deficit, the Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII) has identified vacancy savings for fiscal year 2025, which amounts to \$750,000.

Operating under a proviso for regional staffing, OII is committed to implementing a phased approach to effectively respond to incidents across Washington State involving use of deadly force by law enforcement. Although hiring has progressed slower than anticipated, OII remains focused on future stability by filling necessary positions to adequately staff and open regional offices. These roles will be filled by June 30, 2025, ensuring we maintain the capacity to conduct fair, thorough, transparent, and competent investigations of law enforcement use of deadly force.

This cost-saving measure is intended as a one-time reduction for fiscal year 2025 and should not affect the 2025-2027 biennial budget. Any future budget cuts could hinder our operations. Therefore, OII is requesting additional funding from the legislature in the 2025 supplemental and 2025-2027 biennial budgets to ensure we can fully achieve operational readiness.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at <u>vicki.kamin@oii.wa.gov.</u>

Sincerely, Vicki Kamin Vicki Kamin, Director of Administrative Services

cc: Jane Nesbitt, Chief of Staff, Roger Rogoff, OII Director Kathy Cody, OFM Budget Manager

## Office of Independent Investigations

Agency Title	Program Impacted	Fund	Time period	Amou	nt	Description/Consequences of Reductions	Notes
2290 Vacancy Savings	Regional Staffing Proviso	3F2	FY 2025	\$	750,000	Have not been able to hire regional staff as quickly as expected. Challenges for	This savings is meant as a 1-time only reduction for Fiscal Year 2025 from the
						Investigations staff are length of time for background checks, polygraphs,	Regional Staffing Proviso and must not be reduced from the 25-27 biennial budget.
						psychological evaluations and advisory board waivers. Will still need to fill all	Any reductions from future budget would result in a negative variance.
						current alloted vacancies to continue progress of opening OII to take on	
						investigation activities.	