

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No.	<u>4c</u>
Date of Meeting	<u>June 22, 2010</u>

DATE: June 22, 2010

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Chief Colleen Wilson

SUBJECT: Special Order of Business – WASPC Accreditation

On May 19, 2010, the Port of Seattle Police Department was formally recognized as an accredited agency by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

WASPC was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Washington. In 1976, WASPC appointed a task force to develop "standards and goals" for Washington state law enforcement and, as a result, the WASPC Accreditation Program was born. The Accreditation Program has grown and evolved over the years and currently consists of 140 specific standards that each agency seeking WASPC accreditation recognition must meet. These standards represent contemporary law enforcement best practices and industry standards. The subject matter of these standards covers virtually all of the vital policy and procedural areas that are critical for a professional law enforcement agency's success.

Benefits of participation in the WASPC Accreditation Program include:

- Increased pride in the agency;
- Enhanced administrative and operational effectiveness;
- Systemized self-assessment;
- Confidence that recruitment, selection and promotion processes are fair and equitable;
- Improved morale within the police agency;
- Strengthened understanding of agency policies and procedures by all police personnel;
- Decreased susceptibility to civil litigation;
- Greater public confidence in the agency; and
- State and local acknowledgment of professional competence.