

- NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hillard Heintze Engaged by King County Auditor's Office to Analyze the Internal Investigations Operations and Practices of the King County Sheriff's Office

Focus Will Be on Comparing and Contrasting KCSO's Internal Affairs Practices with Best-Practice Standards and Methodologies Used by Similar Law Enforcement Agencies

Chicago, IL - February 2, 2012 - Today, Hillard Heintze announced it had been awarded a contract by the State of Washington's King County Auditor's Office to undertake a comprehensive analysis and review of the King County Sheriff's Office's (KCSO) internal affairs operations and practices. This award comes on the heels of a formal competitive bidding process that included other state, regional and national providers of independent internal affair audits as well as policing and public safety governance and oversight services.

One of the priorities aligned with the Auditor's Office three-year strategic plan is extending the Office's focus on performance, efficiency and accountability to the internal investigations operations of the King County Sheriff's Office. "We see this audit as an excellent opportunity to help the Auditor's Office achieve three goals," said Hillard Heintze CEO Arnette Heintze. "First, to establish a current baseline for these internal investigation activities. Second, to compare them to best practices in use and in development at comparable law enforcement agencies nationwide. And third, to identify where the most attractive opportunities to enhance and improve these practices currently lie."

King County awarded the contract to Hillard Heintze after releasing a formal Request for Proposal for these services and comparing the qualifications, experience and proposed approach of many competing firms. "We're honored to be entrusted with this critical assignment," said Heintze. "We credit and commend King County for taking this action. We know from experience that it is enormously important for law enforcement agencies like the Auditor's Office as well as the KCSO to proactively conduct exactly this kind of audit and assessment periodically."

About Hillard Heintze

To protect what matters most, we believe that immediate access to trusted counsel, critical insights and the full scope of information vital to strategic decision-making is absolutely essential. In line with this conviction, Hillard Heintze develops best-in-class security strategies and investigations to protect and preserve the safety of our clients' people, property, performance and reputation in the U.S. and worldwide. And we view our role as a trusted advisor as a noble and honorable pursuit. This is our purpose. It's who we are. It's why our clients trust us.

For the last three years, Hillard Heintze has been recognized by *Inc.* Magazine as one of America's fastest-growing private companies - and ranked on the annual Inc. 500/5000 list. The company has also been ranked #6 on the 2011 Initiative for a Competitive Inner City list of the 100 fastest-growing inner city firms in the U.S. Headquartered in Chicago, Hillard Heintze also has operations in eight major U.S. metropolitan centers as well as operating capabilities across North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Russia and Asia.

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