

Event 2469: Judith Freel (Radical Women)

Transcript of testimony at a public hearing of the Seattle City Council's Public Safety & Health Committee

August 20, 1974

**JUDITH FREEL:**

My name is Judith Freel and I represent Radical Women. Radical Women's support Seize the Time for Oppressed People's ordinance in establishing a Citizens Review Board. Or as a socialist feminist organization, we recognize a secondary position, powerlessness, and discrimination women have been regulated to in society, we recognize and demand the protection that a Citizens Review Board would provide. Radical Women are fed up waiting for the police to end brutalizing racial minorities, homosexuals and women, and the omnipotent structure with which the police department functions. We need and demand a comprehensive solution to policing brutality, which a Citizens Review Board such as STOP has outlined in their ordinance would provide. The board would be comprised of those who are the most oppressed by the police, women, minorities and sexual minorities. It would be independent of the police department. STOP has clearly shown that this mandate is supported by the people and should be implemented now. A Citizens Review Board would put the end to discrimination and prejudice in the police department's handling of citizens' complaints or brutality by police. In the event of a citizen's complaint of discrimination and illegal procedures, the board would have full authority to investigate fine, suspend or terminate individuals responsible. This also ensures protection to those who are employed within the police department. All of the people must be represented and protected equally. If we are to have justice and freedom under the law.