

Seattle
Community
Police Commission

VIA EMAIL

July 9, 2021

Re: Council Bill 120105 regarding Crowd Control Weapons

Dear Councilmember Herbold,

The Seattle Community Police Commission writes today to offer its support for Council Bill 120105. The Commission believes that the bill's inclusion of clear delineations of when less-lethal weapons can and cannot be used—and limitations on who can use them—is a significant first step in ensuring the safety of community members when they engage in First Amendment protected protests.

The Commission wishes to note that while we appreciate the improvements the bill would make to Seattle Police Department's use of crowd control weapons, the Commission wants to ensure that the City Council does not forget that there is more work to be done. This legislation does work toward implementation of some recommendations made by the CPC last fall. However, those CPC's recommendations identified additional changes necessary to best protect our community's safety and civil liberties during protests for which we ask the City Council to not stop striving towards.

The CPC looks forward to more opportunities to engage with the City, City Council, and SPD to further ensure the safety of all Community members when they are exercising their First Amendment rights.

Sincerely,

La Rond Baker and Erin Goodman,
Seattle Community Police Commission Co-Chairs