

# Seattle Community Police Commission

Our City. Our Safety. Our Police. **Better Together.**

October 24, 2016

Dear Community Stakeholders,

After a recent flurry of activity, we'd like to update you on the status of efforts to reform Seattle's police accountability system.

In August 2016, the federal Court overseeing Seattle's police reform process authorized the City to draft police accountability system legislation, but required that the legislation be submitted to the Court prior to City Council taking action on it. The City filed this legislation in early October after many discussions with the Community Police Commission (CPC) and other City stakeholders. The Court's guidance on whether this legislation is consistent with the intent of the Settlement Agreement is expected in late January 2017. Shortly thereafter, the Mayor will file proposed legislation with the City Council for its deliberation and action.

Most elements of the draft legislation filed with the Court are consistent with recommendations previously endorsed by both the CPC and other stakeholders. Key elements include:

- Strengthening the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA), which will remain responsible for investigating complaints of officer misconduct;
- Creating an Office of Inspector General, which will be responsible for auditing both OPA and the Seattle Police Department (SPD); and
- Making the CPC the permanent community-based police oversight body.

The CPC and other City stakeholders were unable to reach consensus on a few critical areas in the draft legislation, particularly with regard to the independence of the civilian and community oversight agencies. If the package the Mayor ultimately submits is not fully aligned with our recommendations, the CPC plans to advocate directly to the City Council during its deliberations.

The CPC will provide more details to community stakeholders about key legislative provisions following the federal Court's ruling and the Mayor's filing of proposed legislation with the City Council. We hope at that time your organization will support the CPC's positions and advocate for their adoption by City Council. The City Council plans to hold public meetings on the legislation to obtain community feedback, and we would appreciate your support in those sessions.

If you have any questions or would like to have a more in-depth conversation on the proposed legislation sooner rather than later, please contact CPC Executive Director Fé Lopez at 206-684-5175 or [fe.lopez@seattle.gov](mailto:fe.lopez@seattle.gov).

Thank you for your commitment to constitutional policing in Seattle.

Sincerely,



Rev. Harriett Walden, Co-Chair  
Community Police Commission



Lisa Daugaard, Co-Chair  
Community Police Commission