



# City of Seattle

Seattle Police Department

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May 20, 2015

Community Police Commission  
PO Box 94765  
Seattle, WA 98124-7065

**RE: SPD Response to Post-Ferguson and Black Lives Matter Demonstrations**

Dear Rev. Walden and Ms. Daugaard:

Thank you for continuing your work to gather and provide feedback from our community. Enhancing community trust is of paramount importance to the Seattle Police Department, and I genuinely value our relationship with the Community Police Commission. I also appreciate your acknowledgment that there are diverse perspectives about our response to recent demonstrations.

The Seattle Police Department will continue to collaborate with Court Monitor Merrick Bobb and the Department of Justice in review of all techniques used by officers. We are discussing a unique opportunity for assessment of SPD demonstration management, as we are committed to continuous improvement. The Seattle Police Department has been at the forefront of emerging knowledge in this area for years, but each experience provides an important opportunity to reflect, assess performance and further modernize our techniques. Constructive community feedback is essential in the process and we are eager to work with the CPC to capture it.

Again, thanks for your commitment to working with us on this important topic. It is my hope that our collective efforts will not only improve police practices in Seattle, but also provide a national example that other communities can learn from during these very important and challenging times.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. O'Toole  
Chief of Police

Cc:  
Mayor Ed Murray  
Merrick Bobb, Monitor  
J. Michael Diaz, U.S. Attorney's Office  
Tim Mygatt, DOJ Civil Rights Division  
Seattle Attorney Peter Holmes  
Seattle City Council  
Seattle Community Police Commission