



# City of Seattle

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## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 15, 2019 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Seattle City Hall, Boards & Commissions Conference Room L-280

600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle Washington

**Commissioners Present:** Chris Brown, Latosha Correll, Michael Garrett, Sabel Roizen, Byram Simpson, Joseph Suttner, Kari Lerum, Jessi Murray, Wayne Rocque, and Manuel Venegas

**Commissioners Absent:** Deepa Sivarajan and Katrina Sanford

**SOCR Staff:** Janet Stafford, Oscar Cerda

**Meeting Minutes recorded by:** Chris Brown

**Guests:** Lulu Carpenter (Alphabet Alliance of Color), Nick (Seattle Police Commission), Jennifer Tippins (Office of Police Accountability)

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Public Open Comment

1. No public open comment.

#### Approve June, July, and August Special Meeting Minutes and August Agenda

1. Motion to approve June meeting minutes. **Motion passes (9 in favor, 1 abstention)**
2. Motion to approve July meeting minutes. **Motion passes (8 in favor, 2 abstentions)**
3. Motion to approve August 13 special meeting minutes. **Motion passes (100%)**
4. Motion to approve August agenda with below edits. **Motion passes (9 in favor, 1 abstention)**
  - a. Add Lulu Carpenter to agenda at 7:05 PM to present on Alphabet Alliance of Color.
  - b. Add agenda item about co-chair for outreach and budget for community-based meeting under committee reports.

## Office of Police Accountability Presentation

1. Office of Police Accountability (OPA) presentation by Jennifer Tippins, senior communications specialist
  - a. Jennifer's role is to engage community and raise awareness of the services offered by OPA
2. OPA is part of a three-pronged police accountability system
  - a. Other two partners are Community Police Commission (CPC) and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
3. Main mandate is to investigate complaints of misconduct by Seattle Police Department (SPD) employees
  - a. Process is for people to file reports on website, or by phone, email, in-person, or letter, which are then investigated by the department
  - b. Limited to administrative misconduct – criminal misconduct referred to another entity
  - c. Can include excessive force, derogatory language, discrimination
  - d. Complaints can be filed internally or externally
4. OPA is housed within SPD administratively, though located physically and operationally outside of it
  - a. Currently 23 employees, with 13 civilians, 10 sworn
5. After complaint is received, undergo investigation
  - a. Potentially for mediation by a professional – if successful, complaint taken off the record
  - b. Can require further evidence or investigation – investigator with OPA conducts interviews with complainant and employee, and reviews video footage from body cams or patrol cars
  - c. Investigator compiles a summary report and passes on to the director, who is a civilian review appointee
  - d. Director makes recommended finding as to whether allegation is sustained or not
  - e. Recommendation passed onto Chief of Police, who makes final decision on whether sustained, and also on disciplinary actions
6. Outcomes of complaint could include several options:
  - a. Training – one time or several courses, with report-back on behavior
  - b. Potential to move to suspension or termination if behavior does not change
7. Includes monitoring serious uses of force – all Type III uses of force, some Type II
  - a. Type I uses of force are harder to make a complaint against, but OPA is still supposed to track
8. Community engagement so far has included:
  - a. Tabling at festivals in Seattle
  - b. Doing more presentations to raise awareness – interviews with community organizations
  - c. Public awareness assessments with 195 responders
    - i. Online survey live for about a month; paper surveys also included at tabling
9. Upcoming projects:
  - a. Media program revamp
  - b. Office-involved shooting rapid response protocol
  - c. Officer wellness
  - d. Outreach and engagement with the LGBTQ community
10. Questions and comments from commissioners:
  - a. Are all investigations reactive, or is there proactive auditing?
    - i. There is proactive where the director mandates. OPA also makes a point to investigate all use of force. OIG would also take proactive suggestions.
  - b. Do you look at patterns of complaints or about groups of employees to see if there is a culture of work supporting misbehavior, or particular managers who further that culture?
    - i. Yes, we look at the data, and so does OIG. In general, officers with fewer years of service tend to have more complaints because they are still learning.
  - c. How many complaints do you get per month, and do they rise and fall based on time of year?

- i. Some of it is seasonal and can pick up in the summer. Annual reports are available on the website to look through. It's interesting to consider how good of a metric that is – are more complaints better, or worse?
  - d. If someone files an anonymous complaint without contact information, will it be dismissed more?
    - i. It does make it difficult to proceed if it is flagged for further investigation.
  - e. Is OPA sufficiently empowered? Is there a perception you need to combat?
    - i. Being part of a system with partner organizations is impactful. Perception in media is a challenge for OPA. We're working on a protocol for responding to officer-involved shootings or on overturned decisions, in partnership with CPC.
  - f. Does OPA have a stance on the ongoing discussion around consent decree compliance?
    - i. We're maintaining a neutral and objective view. Filings happened today so you may see news.
  - g. Is the director of OPA appointed by the mayor?
    - i. There's a communal process, usually with a hiring commission, but the mayor will weigh in.
  - h. The Chief of Police had 4 complaints against them – who decides the complaint viability when the complaint is against the Chief?
- 11. Request for commissioners to brainstorm other organizations to do outreach and send to Jennifer Tippins.

#### **Alphabet Alliance of Color (AAoC) presentation**

1. Presentation by Lulu Carpenter from AAoC, former co-chair of LGBTQ Commission.
2. AAoC founded in 2017; received a grant from Seattle Foundation and work with Seattle Girls School
3. Meet monthly and offer skill trainings, discussions on how to be allies as POC
4. Received Vibrancy Democracy Grant to increase leadership of queer and trans people in Seattle
  - a. Summer institute launching in January and occurring for the next three years for parents and adults; currently working on staffing
    - i. Institutes would be 8 weeks with meeting once a week
    - ii. People involved would receive a stipend
    - iii. Kick-off event at Seattle Foundation that is open to all
  - b. Project to support the passing of intergenerational knowledge that is often erased
5. Want to reach out to the LGBTQ Commission to be main sponsor for an event in the Bertha Knight Landes room to share what AAoC members have been doing with different types of work in communities of color
  - a. Want to invite folks that don't identify as queer and trans POC as well
  - b. Invite councilmembers, commissioners, and City departments
6. Hoping Commission could also reach out to Age-Friendly Seattle, housed under Human Services Department (HSD)
7. Event would likely take place in January 2020; involve recruitment for summer institutes
  - a. Need to determine how to provide childcare for event
  - b. Preferably put out a save the date for an event in September 2019
8. Motion to sponsor AAoC's event at City Hall. **Motion passes (100%)**

#### **Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR) Report**

1. SOCR report from Oscar Cerda, Deputy Director of SOCR

2. Roller derby update: Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) met with roller derby group and moved into a specific schedule in 2020-2021 to lay down permanent stripes in at least 12-15 of total 27 facilities
  - a. Both parties very pleased with outcomes; scheduled additional meeting on September 18
3. Get Engaged: working on finalizing interview for new Get Engaged member of Commission

### Committee Reports

1. POC Stakeholders Committee and Commission Operations did not meet this month
2. Community Engagement:
  - a. Still looking for a venue for meeting in community to do community listening
    - i. Needs to be ADA-compliant, accessible by transit, include security, with evening hour availability; ideally would include childcare or be child-friendly
    - ii. Want to avoid places that are not LGBTQ-friendly – prefer all-gender restrooms, don't want to partner with organizations that do not align with our mission and values
    - iii. From a geographic standpoint, identified Central District, Beacon Hill, North End, and Capitol Hill/Downtown
      1. Committee felt that south end could be first location away from City Hall; made contact at Beacon Hill and Rainier Beach library branches
      2. Other recommendation for Earnestine Anderson place, Hillman Observatory
    - iv. Still need an agenda for meeting in community – be proactive about inviting organizations in that area, etc
    - v. Motion to have October or November meeting in community depending on location of an available public library. **Motion passes (100%)**
    - vi. Motion to allocate \$400 to meetings in community for remainder of 2019. **Motion passes (100%)**
  - b. Key workplan activity was to establish relationships with LGBTQ organizations – “ambassador program” where each member would identify 2 LGBTQ organizations to serve as an outreach ambassador to them
    - i. Solidarity with entire population not contributing to marginalization
      1. Include housing, healthcare, racial justice, trans justice
    - ii. Once organizations are identified, need more work in committee to make a two-way dialogue; potentially have someone from the organization attend committee meetings
  - c. Co-chairs: Alejandro has rolled off Commission, Michael is hoping for another co-chair
    - i. Michael nominates Jessi, who is a yes as co-chair for one year
    - ii. Latosha nominates Wayne, who does not feel ready but may be in a few months if Jessi is okay to step back
    - iii. Motion to appoint Jessi Murray as new co-chair (along with Michael Garrett) of the Community Engagement Committee. **Motion passes (100%)**
3. Social Media & Communications:
  - a. Have filmed 4 interviews that Sabel is working on editing and transcribing
  - b. Will letter signed onto on at August 13 special meeting regarding police accountability, mentioned sending social media toolkit to educate public about consent decree and process
4. Update on Human services Department (HSD) workgroup:
  - a. Met again on August 8; idea is to have a monthly meeting going forward when the merge happens between City and County services for the regional governance board on homelessness
  - b. Intern at HSD working on best practices document that is reflective of Ingersoll's analysis

### **Cross-Commission Candidate Forum**

1. In conjunction with other SOCR commissions, interested in hosting a forum for City candidates; discussed at 5-chair meeting on August 14
2. Tentatively planned for October 7 at 6 or 6:30 p.m. in Bertha Knight Landes Room
3. Need stipend for moderator and costs for food and beverage
4. Seattle Channel to livestream the event
5. Motion to participate and host other commission for City Council candidate forum, assuming prior approval of event by Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission (SEEC). **Motion passes (100%)**
6. Motion to approve budget up to \$500 for City Council candidate forum, assuming prior approval of event by SEEC. **Motion passes (100%)**

### **5-Chairs Meeting Report Out**

1. Shared workplans and talked about integrated task force on housing and homelessness again
2. Lots of turn-over in co-chairs, need to get off the ground again
3. Presentation on Lid I-5 exploratory committee
  - a. Asking about what the communities represented by the commissions would want from space
  - b. How to do outreach to our demographics? Will share survey with us
4. Update on AV equipment
5. Human Rights Commission trying to sign on to report a budget request from Real Change to have 5 additional public restrooms available on all year
  - a. If timing works for September, ask Human Rights Commission to get it to us so we know what the proposal is before deciding whether to sign out

### **Announcements, Reminders, & Roll Call for Next Meeting**

1. Byram Simpson absent for September meeting.
2. Announcement: Medical Angels event on August 21, 7 PM at Seattle Central Library, 1000 4th Ave – moderated by black and brown people living with HIV.
3. Forum on the rights of sex workers went great!

**(END 8:33)**