

TAKE ACTION TODAY:

Ask City Council Members to Fully Staff the Community Police Commission

Interim Mayor Tim Burgess recently released his proposed 2018 city budget. The budget doesn't provide you—the community—with a Community Police Commission (CPC) that is sufficiently staffed to fulfill its new legislative mandates, which will in turn decrease its ability to engage meaningfully with you on police accountability issues. Since the next step is for the City Council to review and amend the budget before it passes it back to the Mayor for his signature, the CPC needs your help to remind Council of the importance of fully staffing the CPC.

Call to Action:

1. Contact Councilmembers via phone or email no later than Thursday, October 5th to voice your concerns about the budget's limited staffing of the Community Police Commission.

Sally Bagshaw	District 7	sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov	206-684-8801
Lorena Gonzalez	Citywide	lorena.gonzalez@seattle.gov	206-684-8802
Bruce Harrell	District 2	bruce.harrell@seattle.gov	206-684-8804
Lisa Herbold	District 1	lisa.herbold@seattle.gov	206-684-8803
Rob Johnson	District 4	rob.johnson@seattle.gov	206-684-8808
Debora Juarez	District 5	debora.juarez@seattle.gov	206-684-8805
Mike O'Brien	District 6	mike.obrien@seattle.gov	206-684-8800
Kshama Sawant	District 3	kshama.sawant@seattle.gov	206-684-8016

2. Testify at the City Council's public budget hearing on Thursday, October 5th at 5:30 pm. If you want an early speaking slot, plan to arrive no later than 4:30 pm. Please share this [Facebook invitation](#) and encourage people to speak in support of a fully-funded community voice.

Background:

In June 2017, police accountability reform legislation made the CPC a permanent body and increased its duties and responsibilities. The legislation also established an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to contribute to police oversight efforts. A staffing analysis indicated the CPC and OIG both needed approximately 10 full-time employees to accomplish everything laid out in the legislation. However, the Mayor's budget proposal only provides the CPC with 2 additional employees, bringing the total staff to 6, which is 4 short of the identified need. The OIG was allocated 8 full-time employees in the proposed budget—2 short of its identified need.

Talking Points:

- We in the community are optimistic about the potential for positive change now that police accountability reform has been signed into law. The next step, though, is an important one to get right: The City must fund the system adequately so that it can be effective. If the City of Seattle is serious about police accountability and community input in that process, then funding will reflect that. The City needs to commit dollars to its values of community input and reform and not set these oversight bodies up to fail.

- A staffing analysis indicated that the CPC and OIG will each need 10 full-time employees to accomplish their assigned duties under the new legislation. The Mayor's proposed budget provides the OIG with 8 employees and the CPC with 6. We ask that Council fully staff both offices in its budget. Because these are meant to be co-equal parts of the police oversight structure, the CPC shouldn't receive fewer staff than the OIG, especially since the staffing needs are similar. The community shouldn't get the short end of the stick.
- The CPC must have enough staff to engage meaningfully with us in the community. They are our voice in this new process and need adequate resources to represent us. Without the CPC, we don't share power in the decision making and the CPC can't do its job.
- We do want to thank the Mayor for funding 3 civilian complaint navigators in the Office of Police Accountability. That is a step in the right direction.