

MINUTES

Community Police Commission (CPC)

August 2, 2017, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Seattle City Hall, Room 370

CPC Attendees: Enrique Gonzalez, co-chair, Rev. Harriett Walden, co-chair, Isaac Ruiz, co-chair, Lisa Daugaard, Melinda Giovengo, Kay Godefroy, Jay Hollingsworth,

CPC Absent: Claudia D'Allegrì, Josias Flynn, Cpt. Joe Kessler, Ofc. Kevin Stuckey, Rev. Aaron Williams

CPC Staff: Fé Lopez, Minty LongEarth, Tracy Whitlatch, Betsy Graef, Karen Chung

CPC Staff Absent: Anne Bettsworth

Review Agenda and Approve Minutes / Announcements

Moved, seconded, and passed (6-0-1): “To approve the 08-02-17 agenda, as amended.”

Moved, seconded, and passed (7-0-0): “To approve the minutes from 07-16-17.”

CPC Appointments Update

The Mayor's Office is submitting paperwork to nominate Colleen Echohawk and Emma Catague for the CPC. Colleen Echohawk works with urban native people in addition to people who are homeless and people with mental health and/or addiction issues. She is the executive director of Chief Seattle Club and her family was instrumental in bringing the Violence Against Women Act to the forefront. Emma Catague is a longtime API community leader and has worked with the Filipino Demographic Advisory Council for many years on policing issues. Emma comes to the CPC with support and recommendations from the API community and leadership. The plan is for both to be acted on August 9 by the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, and New Americans (GESNA) committee for confirmation by full Council on August 14. The commission will provide public testimony in support of these nominees at the August 9 Council committee meeting.

Another tentative potential commissioner is Hisham Farajallah, a long-time member of Idris Mosque in North Seattle who has done a lot of work on public safety. Prior to submitting papers to be considered for an appointment, he will verify whether or not he can commit to the commission's meeting requirements.

The commission discussed that without a youth representative on the commission, there remains a critical gap in representation. The commission decided to formally identify this gap and the need to fill a youth position in public testimony on August 9.

Commissioners who have ideas for people who should be considered for commission should speak to CPC staff.

Action Item – Provide public testimony in support of having a youth commissioner on August 9 at the GESCNA committee hearing and in support of Colleen Echohawk and Emma Catague as new commissioners.

“Seattle Stands with our Muslim Neighbors” Rally and March Open Letter

The CPC discussed the open letter by the Seattle Stands with our Muslim Neighbors Coalition to the Mayor, Police Chief, and the OPA Director that describes a June rally, during which Coalition demonstrators were pepper-sprayed and arrested by SPD. In the letter, the Coalition asks for an apology from the principal recipients of the letter, an OPA investigation of the incident, and a meeting to talk about, among various things, SPD’s future action.

The commission discussed next steps in response to the letter and decided to: continue to act in an advisory capacity to the Coalition to help them with their communications and interactions with SPD; write a letter to the interim OPA Director, Andrew Myerberg to request expediency in the investigation of high-profile incidents; write a letter to the Coalition acknowledging the issues highlighted in their letter; and revisit SPD’s crowd management policy to address issues when there are competing demonstrations occurring at the same time.

Moved, seconded, and passed (7-0-0): “To approve the CPC acting in an advisory role to the Seattle Stands with our Muslim Neighbors Coalition; writing a letter to the interim OPA Director requesting that timely investigation of high-profile incidents be prioritized; writing a letter to the Coalition acknowledging the issues highlighted in its letter; and revisiting SPD’s crowd management policy to address issues when there are competing demonstrations occurring at the same time.”

Action Item – Act in an advisory role to the Seattle Stands with our Muslim Neighbors Coalition.

Action Item – Write a letter to the interim OPA Director requesting that timely investigation of high-profile issues be prioritized.

Action Item – Write a letter to the Seattle Stands with our Muslim Neighbors Coalition acknowledging the issues highlighted in its letter.

Action Item – Revisit SPD’s crowd management policy to address issues when there are competing demonstrations occurring at the same time.

Transition Team Update

Status Conference / Search Committee / Collective Bargaining

Since the status conference, commissioners have met with City Attorney Pete Holmes and with Ian Warner from the Mayor’s Office, Josh Johnson from the City Attorney’s Office, and Brianna Thomas from CM Lorena González’s office to discuss next steps. On July 28, the City filed a letter with the court which states that the City will move forward with the search process for the OPA Director and the Inspector General. The City is now preparing a brief to file soon that responds to the court’s request for information.

Action Item – Staff will follow up with Judge Anne Levinson (ret.), the former OPA Auditor, asking her to write a letter to the court related to concerns raised by Judge Terrence Carroll (ret.) in a letter he filed with the court recently.

OPA Auditor Report

The Interim OPA Auditor has received approval from the Mayor’s Office to prepare a report on issues he has identified.

Op-Ed Discussion

The commission will draft an op-ed explaining the status of the accountability ordinance and the constraints currently faced by the commission. Once drafted by Minty and Enrique, the draft will be sent to the Transition Team for review, after which a final draft will be sent to the entire commission for comment and finalization.

Action Item – Staff and commissioners will draft and finalize an op-ed explaining the status of the ordinance and related constraints on the commission.

Lottery

The lottery for current commissioners will be held during the CPC meeting on August 16.

By-Laws

The commission will review the CPC bylaws and update them to bring them into conformance with law and align them with the ordinance, while retaining provisions that will preserve positive aspects of the commission’s culture, Enrique, Lisa, Isaac, Harriett, and Jay will work with staff and our attorney on revisions needed immediately. The commission will evaluate whether further revisions are needed at the conclusion of its strategic planning process.

Action Item – Staff and commissioners will work with our attorney to revise CPC bylaws to bring them into conformance with law and align them with the ordinance, while retaining provisions that will preserve positive aspects of the commission’s culture.

Other Business

The CSO Racial Equity Team’s Undoing Institutional Racism training – The Community Service Officer racial equity team will be participating in the People’s Institute Northwest’s Undoing Institutional Racism training on Friday, August 11 from 8am to 6pm at the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Smith Conference Room. There are open slots for the training and OCR has invited commissioners who are interested to attend the training.

Live in D5 Update – Councilmember Deborah Juarez’s Live in District 5 event took place on July 22. The CPC was present and had the opportunity to meet with community members. The North Seattle Family Resource Center requested the CPC’s presence at an upcoming networking event on August 18 from 8:30 to 10:30am. CPC staff will follow up with the Center’s staff to coordinate the CPC’s attendance.

OLEO event at El Centro de La Raza – The commission discussed the recent community forum held by the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) at El Centro de La Raza in which the commission participated. The event and the concerns raised by community members during the event highlighted the importance of clearly and consistently communicating the distinction between SPD and King County’s law enforcement and accountability systems.

Action Item – Staff will coordinate with the Seattle Family Resource Center for the CPC to attend an upcoming networking event on August 18.

Policy Workgroup

The commission discussed the workgroup’s judgment that policy areas of greatest concern to communities most impacted by policing should be prioritized by CPC, especially given that the commission does not have the capacity now to address every important policy area. The workgroup highlighted the following as current significant issues to focus on.

Stakeholder Workgroup on External Investigations of Officer Use of Serious and Deadly Force – The companion resolution to the ordinance signed by the Mayor in June mandates the CPC to convene a stakeholder group to discuss options for external investigations of cases involving the use of serious and deadly force. The commission discussed potential stakeholder participants including but not limited to: Sue Rahr, James Bible, SPD, a representative from the City Attorney’s Office, the ACLU, the Council, the Mayor’s office, and individuals or representatives of groups who do not believe internal investigations are credible, such as Not This Time. The commission also discussed the value of having the Monitoring Team observe these stakeholder discussions.

To start, the commission will identify and convene stakeholders to begin planning the work of the stakeholder group. The goal is to conduct research locally and nationally, develop recommendations, and report findings and recommendations to the Council. The first step will be to meet with CM Lorena González to confer on beginning the process and to ask for ideas on who should be invited to participate as stakeholders. The Policy Workgroup will oversee this work.

Terry Stops and Detentions Assessment Response – The commission will draft a response to the Monitor’s recent assessment and SPD’s recent annual report on stops and detentions. This response will highlight the positive progress made by SPD and identify areas of concern in view of SPD’s bias-free policing policy.

Action Item – Staff will set up a meeting with CM González.

Action Item – Lisa will take lead in helping staff draft a response on stops and detentions.

DOJ/Monitor Update

DOJ – The DOJ had no update.

Monitor – The Monitor’s representative confirmed that the Monitoring Team will meet with Judge Robart on August 10. The Monitor’s representative will report out on that meeting at the August 16 CPC meeting if he is permitted to do so.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- *Action Item* – Provide public testimony in support of having a youth commissioner on August 9 at the GESCNA committee hearing and in support of Colleen Echohawk and Emma Catague as new commissioners.
- *Action Item* – Act in an advisory role to the Seattle Stands with our Muslim Neighbors Coalition.
- *Action Item* – Write a letter to the interim OPA Director requesting that timely investigation of high-profile issues be prioritized.
- *Action Item* – Write a letter to the Seattle Stands with our Muslim Neighbors Coalition acknowledging the issues highlighted in its letter.
- *Action Item* – Revisit SPD's crowd management policy to address issues when there are competing demonstrations occurring at the same time.
- Action Item – Staff will follow up with Judge Anne Levinson (ret.) the former OPA Auditor, asking her to write a letter to the court related to concerns raised by Judge Terrence Carroll (ret.) in a letter he filed with the court recently.
- *Action Item* – Staff and commissioners will draft an op-ed explaining the status of the ordinance and related constraints on the commission.
- *Action Item* – Staff and commissioners will work with our attorney to revise CPC bylaws to bring them into conformance with law and align them with the ordinance, while retaining provisions that will preserve positive aspects of the commission's culture.
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- *Action Item* – Staff will set up a meeting with CM Gonzalez.
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