

Community Police Commission (CPC)

October 2, 2024, 9:00 am In-Person & Via WebEx Conference Call

- I. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**
- II. Take Attendance**

CPC Attendees: Anthony Gaedcke, Joel Merkel, Lars Erickson, Raven Nicole Tyler, Tascha Johnson, Erica Newman

CPC Absences: Jeremy Wood, Suzette Dickerson, Mark Mullens

CPC Staff: Dorian Waller, Jessica Phares, Dani Sullivan, Cameron Runyan, Eci Ameh

III. Review Agenda & Minutes

Action: Motion to approve the draft agenda for 10/2/24 and minutes from 9/4/24

Moved: Yes

Seconded: Yes

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approved by voice vote.

IV. Community Police Commission Updates

- Co-Chair Updates
 - Commissioner Merkel provided an update on the CPC, describing it as a time of transition organizationally and systemically.
 - Commissioner Merkel introduced new staff – Acting Executive Director Eci Ameh and Community Engagement Director Dorian Waller. He provided an update on CPC priorities, including internal staff support and Commissioner work planning and support.
 - Commissioner Merkel shared that Acting Executive Director Bessie Scott has moved on to a new position and shared words of gratitude for Bessie’s service to the CPC.
 - Commissioner Merkel provided an update that Co-Chair Walden has stepped down from the CPC and shared words of gratitude for Commissioner Walden’s service to the CPC.

- Commissioner Merkel shared an update regarding the upcoming status hearing on the consent decree.
 - Commissioner Merkel shared that the Mayor’s proposed budget includes minor cuts to our staff. While no FTEs were cut, the equivalent of 1 FTE was removed from CPC’s budget. The proposed cuts were not approved by the co-chairs prior to being submitted to the Mayor’s Office.
- Executive Director Updates
 - Acting Director Ameh reminded Commissioners to use their City email addresses for CPC businesses.
 - Acting Director Ameh shared the update that Dorian Waller is filling the Community Engagement Director role on a temporary basis and CPC expects to complete that recruitment by mid-October. The Policy Director position is vacant, and HR anticipates being available to begin this recruitment in late October.
 - Acting Director Ameh shared the update that Jessica Phares, CPC’s Data and Policy Analyst, has accepted a position with the state and will be leaving the CPC in mid-October.
 - Commissioner Merkel shared a clarification to an earlier update regarding Community Engagement Specialist Mergitu Argo. Mergitu is still a CPC employee and is on loan to Seattle Public Utilities for a term of 12-months under an agreement between both departments. CPC is working to backfill her position with a temporary Community Engagement Specialist.
- Communications Advisor Updates
 - Commissioner Merkel shared that there is a Draft Communications Policy, which is an item that the Rosenthal report pointed out as an area to strengthen for the CPC in the filing done last December. The policy, along with a Draft Communications Strategy, will be presented at the November meeting.
- Commissioner’s Workgroup Updates
 - Commissioner Merkel shared that, to enhance and streamline the CPC’s work, and to improve our ability to build community with our commissioners, we are merging some of the workgroups this fall. Moving forward, CPC will have three workgroups: Police Practices, Community Engagement, and Governance.
 - Commissioner Merkel shared workgroup assignments for Commissioners.

- Community Engagement Updates
 - Dorian Waller led a discussion about the CPC’s Community Engagement Approach and Strategy.
- Policy Updates
 - Jessica Phares shared an overview of a gap analysis that CPC completed to identify gaps in community representation on the Commission. CPC provided its 2024 Commissioner Gap Analysis to the Mayor and Councilmember Kettle in September.
 - Jessica Phares shared an update on CPC’s Legislative Priorities for the upcoming session.

V. Department Updates

- OIG shared that Alyssa Perez-Morrison is serving as Interim Deputy Inspector General. OIG has published 5 surveillance reports, is finalizing its crisis assessment, and is working on its quarterly report on use of force for Q3.

VI. Executive Session

VII. Adjourn