

## Community Police Commission – Bimonthly Meeting

January 17, 2024 | 9AM | In-Person & Via Webex

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

**Present Commissioners:** Adrien Leavitt, Suzette Dickerson, Rev. Patricia Hunter, Raven Tyler, Philip Sanchez, Tascha Johnson, Officer Mark Mullens, Lynne Wilson, Joel Merkel, Lars Erickson, Rev. Harriett Walden, Captain Anthony Gaedcke, Erica Newman

**Present Staff:** Cali Ellis, Dani Sullivan

### IV. **Review Agenda & Minutes**

**Action:** Motion to approve Draft agenda for 1/17/2024

**Moved:** Yes

**Seconded:** Yes

**Approved by voice vote.**

**Action:** Motion to approve the minutes from 1/3/2024 as corrected.

**Moved:** Yes

**Seconded:** Yes

**Approved by voice vote.**

### V. **Community Police Commission Updates**

#### • **Co-chair Updates**

- Acknowledgment of 1 year anniversary of the death Jaahnavi Kandula approaching on January 23 who was struck and killed by police officer responding to 911 call.
- Keep minutes from 1/3/2024 handy and reference throughout the year for CPC's goals voted on and approved by CPC.
- There was a report in the last week that in December an arbitrator overturned a disciplinary decision made by former Chief Carmen Best in 2018 about an officer that was terminated for improper use of a firearm. The City has appealed the arbitrator's decision.

#### • **Executive Director Updates**

- In the final stages of hiring for Communications Advisor position.
- Policy Director position is posted and closing on January 30, 2024.

#### • **Legislative Update**

- About 3k bills introduced for this session. The three most likely to move forward and have an opportunity to testify for are:
  - House Bill 1062: Concerning deception by law enforcement officers during custodial interrogations.
  - House bill 2027: Concerning certification, background checks, and training requirements for sheriffs, police chiefs, marshals, reserve officers, and volunteers.

- House 2086: Updating processes of the office of independent investigations by changing authority to obtain and share investigative information and aligning with current operations and practices.
  - An initiative to roll back the vehicle pursuits legislation in 2022 has been certified by Secretary of State Hobbs and will be going to the ballot.
- **New Business**
  - No new business.

## VI. Departmental Updates

- **City Council**
  - New Councilmember, Bob Kettle of district 7 shared brief remarks introducing himself. He is Chair of the Public Safety Committee and Brent Lo on his team will be clerking the committee.
- **Mayor's Office**
  - Working with Law department on a response to the Monitor's assessment of the accountability system to make sure all on are some page about recommendations made where there's agreement and disagreement and how to approach.
  - There is work being done in the state legislative session.
    - Mayor is focused on public safety and accountability.
    - Gun violence is a priority and there are bills introduced having to do with gun violence.
    - Arbitration is another area being looked at.
    - Diversion programs and mental health are other areas of focus. Looking for increased funding.
  - Looking for a permanent representative from the Mayor's Office to attend CPC bimonthly meetings.
- **Monitoring Team**
  - No update.
- **Department of Justice (DOJ)**
  - No update.
- **Office of Police Accountability (OPA)**
  - Office of Independent Inspections announced they will be taking older cases for review if there is new material evidence.
  - OPA hopes to have 2 more accountability meetings with partners.
  - Subscribe to OPA's newsletter on their website.
- **Office of Inspector General (OIG)**
  - 2024 work plan is published on OIG website.
  - Trying to complete annual report by end of Q1.
  - First of assessment for the use of force assessment is due to court at end of February.

- **Police Department (SPD)**

- No update, but looking forward to listening to the upcoming discussion on the emergency driving policy.

**VII. Community Discussion and Input with Indian American Community Services (IACS): SPD Emergency Vehicle Operations Policy**

- Since Jaahnavi Kandula's death CPC has been in communication with SPD to learn more about training of officers on emergency vehicle operations. Information on what CPC has learned can be found [here](#) in a response letter from Chief Diaz.
- Lalita Uppala, Executive Director of IACS and multiple members from the organization commented on Jaahnavi Kandula's death, concerns about the current SPD policy and the request for CPC to revisit the policy and provide input.
- Commissioners and members of IACS engaged in discussion about the incident causing Jaahnavi Kandula's death.
  - Concerns around the vagueness in current policy.
  - Suggestion for Commissioners to attend driver's training at Washington State Patrol to help make educated decisions for any policy changes to be made.
  - Consider policy around retraining/recertifying officers after a certain amount of time.
  - Indian American community thought the emergency vehicle use policy should include driving to save a resident's life should not put other residents at risk of being killed.

**VIII. Executive Session**

- The Commission went into Executive Session to discuss current or potential litigation.

**IX. Adjourn**