

Community Police Commission (CPC)

April 2, 2025. 9:00 am In-Person & Via WebEx Conference Call

- **Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**
- **Take Attendance**

CPC Attendees: Joel Merkel, Arlecier West, Tascha Johnson, Raven Tyler, Anthony Gaedcke, Mark Mullens, Le'Jayah Washington, Joseph Seia, Lars Erickson

CPC Absences: Erica Newman, Rabbi David Benchlouch

CPC Staff: Eci Ameh, Taryn Darling, Devina Wijaya Moser, Dorian Waller, Mario Teulilo, Kiernyn High, Masooma Ibrahim, Mergitu Argo, Dani Sullivan

- **Review Agenda & Minutes**

Action: Motion to approve the draft agenda for 4/2/2025 and minutes from 3/5/2025

Moved: Yes

Seconded: Yes

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approved by voice vote.

- **Community Police Commission Updates**
 - **Introduction to Seattle Police Chief Shon Barnes-** Chief Barnes shared a presentation outlining his philosophy on policing and his vision for the Seattle Police Department. The CPC looks forward to continuing to build a strong partnership with him.
 - **Co-Chair Updates-**
Update on Commissioner Recruitment Process
 - Joel Merkel shared that the Governance Committee, which includes the Co-Chairs, workgroup and committee leads, and any interested Commissioners has been meeting with candidates to fill the remaining CPC vacancies. There are several highly qualified

applicants from the community, reflecting the strong momentum and impact of the CPC's work over the past 6–9 months.

Two candidates have been referred to and are pending City Council action. Additionally, Interim Director Eci Ameh's nomination packet for Executive Director has been submitted. Council aims to include these items in the April 29 Public Safety Committee meeting agenda.

- **CPC's role in the Accountability Process**

There was an officer-involved shooting on March 19. In accordance with the accountability ordinance, the CPC does not comment on active investigations. However, we are aware of the parallel reviews being conducted by the Force Review Board and the Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII). The CPC has historically held a seat on the Force Review Board, and we are actively working to reestablish that role.

- **Department Updates**

- **City Council-** Provided an update on the April 29 Public Safety Committee timeline and noted the agenda is being finalized.
- **Mayor's office-** no update
- **The Office of Inspector General (OIG)-** no update
- **Department of Justice-** no update
- **Office of Police Accountability (OPA)-** no update
- **Seattle Police Department (SPD)-** no update

- **CPC's Attendance at the IACP Officer Safety and Wellness Conference**

The focus of the IACP conference was officer safety and wellness, with attention to trauma, mental health, and systemic barriers.

Trauma, mental health, stigma, alcohol abuse, and depression were discussed as challenges for law enforcement officers.

Departments are reframing wellness and support systems, offering light duty assignments, peer support, and expanding employee assistance programs.

In conclusion, CPC plans to follow up with SPD's Wellness Officer to schedule a future meeting and learn more about SPD's wellness programs.

- **Executive Director Updates**

Shared an update on partner meetings, emphasizing collaboration, resource-sharing, and reducing duplication with accountability partners. CPC will meet with the Mayor's Office this Friday to discuss its budget and resource needs to fulfill its mandates under the accountability ordinance. CPC will also be meeting with Councilmembers Saka, Moore, and Solomon to continue strengthening those relationships.

2025 CPC Retreat Update

CPC has decided to postpone the staff retreat to a later date in July. In preparation, we're prioritizing an anti-racist, pro-equity training as a foundational step to build shared purpose and values. We believe this will deepen our collective understanding and strengthen how we work together. We're currently reaching out to potential training organizations. More information to come.

Commissioner Attendance Report

In accordance with Article VIII.C.3. of the CPC Bylaws, attendance is tracked and reported monthly during public meetings. CPC presented the current attendance records for the Police Practices Workgroup, Community Engagement Committee, and CPC Monthly Meetings. This report will be shared on a monthly basis moving forward.

- **Policy Updates**

The Policy Team shared a legislative summary, including an overview of recent reviews and CPC's involvement in the City's legislative process. CPC has access to the City's lobbying platform to track legislation and request reviews of relevant bills.

Bill reviewers assess proposed legislation for community impact and provide recommendations to the Commission.

CPC staff will convey CPC's Position through LobbyGOv.

- **Community Engagement Updates**

The Community Engagement Team provided an update on recent outreach, including participation in meetings, a health fair, and ongoing relationship-building with community members. The team have reached out to 327 members in the community

- **Communications Director Update**

Communications Director Kiernyn High presented the CPC's communications goals, which include articulating the mission, introducing staff and Commissioners, raising awareness of partnership opportunities, and expanding networks.

Key tasks include developing communication strategies, documenting policies and processes, and reestablishing a consistent social media presence.

- **Adjourn**