

## **Community Police Commission (CPC)**

### **February 5, 9:00 am In-Person & Via WebEx Conference Call**

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

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

**CPC Absences:** Anthony Gaedcke, Erica Newman, Rabbi David Benchlouch

**CPC Staff:** Eci Ameh, Taryn Darling, Devina Wijaya Moser

- **Review Agenda & Minutes**

**Action:** Motion to approve the draft agenda for 2/5/2025 and minutes from 1/8/2025

**Moved:** Yes

**Seconded:** Yes

**Opposed:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Approved by voice vote.**

- **Community Police Commission Updates**

- **Co-Chair Updates**

- The City Council confirmed the appointment of three new Commissioners that have joined the Commission today.

- Arlecier West – A Senior Human Resources Partner from the King County Council central staff. She joins as a Mayoral appointee.

- Joseph Seia – The Executive Director of Oceania Northwest and a former CPC Commissioner. He returns as a CPC appointee.

- Rabbi David Benchlouch – Holds a master's degree in clinical Mental Health Counseling from Bellevue University and joins as a Council appointee.

- Additionally, the Council confirmed Joel Merkel's reappointment to the Commission for his second term.

Commissioners Tascha Johnson, Arlecier West, and Joel Merkel have stepped up as candidates for CPC Co-Chairs. A motion was made and successfully passed, officially approving the slate of Co-Chairs for the upcoming term.

A quick reminder that **every Commissioner must participate in at least one workgroup**. Please ensure you're signed up for one.

- **Department Updates**

- **City Council-** The vote on Council Bill 120916, regarding the crowd management ordinance, is scheduled for next Tuesday. The bill includes proposed changes based on feedback received.
- **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**

- **Executive Director Updates**

Interim Executive Director Eci Ameh provided staffing updates, noting that CPC may have a total of nine staff members by the end of the month. Mergitu Argo, one of CPC's Community Engagement Specialists, had taken an out-of-class position with SPU but is now returning to CPC. Additionally, three new hires will be joining the team by February 26: a Communications Director, a Community Engagement Specialist, and a Policy and Communications Advisor.

CPC Staff Retreat planning updates- The CPC team is planning a two-day retreat to align on mission, strategy, and collaboration.

Day 1 will be for CPC staff only, focusing on revisiting the Mission, Vision, and Values, as well as strategic and work planning. This will be a working session where staff will generate input and ideas, which will then be brought into Day 2 for further discussion and feedback.

Day 2 will be a joint retreat with Commissioners and Partners. This day will emphasize team and relationship building, discussions on dimensions of culture, and reconnecting with our purpose and the communities we serve. The day will include:

- A facilitated workshop on anti-racist approaches to our work

- Drafting community agreements to establish shared commitments, accountability, and an inclusive space
- Reviewing roles and responsibilities of staff and Commissioners
- Collaborative work planning and strategic planning.

Next, CPC will send out an email with potential date options that work for most attendees. Commissioners will also be invited to join the planning committee and have the opportunity to lead workshops during the retreat.

- **Community Engagement Updates**

The Community Engagement team is working on a matrix and work plan for engaging with Community organizations.

- **Policy Updates**

The Police Practices work group recommends the deployment of blast balls at a distance for reducing harm to protesters. While Council member Moore prioritizes underhand deployment, the group emphasizes the importance of distance.

The CPC met with Council Member Rinck to discuss the private right of action amendment. The prior ordinance proposed a \$10,000 remedy for violation involving excessive use of force by police. The commission declined to take a formal position on this issue.

The CPC now has access to the lobby.gov portal, allowing the team to track public safety bills at the state legislature. The next steps include setting up a review process and summarizing key bills for Commissioner input.

The Policy Director highlighted the 30X30 Initiative, which the Police Practices group was unable to cover during their discussion on crowd management. This initiative, currently being pursued by SPD, aims to increase women police recruits by 30% by the year 2030, and it is under review by the Police Practices Workgroup for further discussion.

- **Executive Session**

- **Adjourn**