

Community Police Commission (CPC) Monthly Meeting

April 1, 2026

In-Person & Via Webex Conference Call

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Attendance

CPC Attendees: Tascha Johnson, Raven Tyler, Joel Merkel, Anthony Gaedcke, Arlecier West, Joseph Seia, Jeremy Holmes, Rick Williams, Le’Jayah Washington, Ken Nsimbi, and Mark Mullens

CPC Absences: Erika Newman and Jen Carl

CPC Staff: Eci Ameh, Keith Wheeler, Taryn Darling, Josette Wicker, Mergitu Argo, Dani Sullivan, Celia Jackson, and Rami El Gharib

Review Agenda and Minutes

Motion to approve the draft agenda for 4/1/2026.

Moved: Commissioner Seia | **Seconded:** Commissioner Tyler

Opposed: 0 | **Abstentions:** 0

Motion Passed.

Motion to approve the draft minutes for 3/4/2025.

Moved: Commissioner Tyler | **Seconded:** Commissioner West

Opposed: 0 | **Abstentions:** 0

Motion Passed.

Approved by voice vote.

Public Comment

Two public comments

- Public comment one: Recommended CPC host two to three town halls this year, apologize and invite a community member to a monthly meeting to speak, and keep recent egregious SPD cases front of mind by giving them space at every meeting. Recommended attending and reviewing King County’s Inquest Program.
- Public comment two: Concerned about the reduced use of Community Assisted Response & Engagement (CARE). Urge CPC to get involved in the next Seattle Police Officers Guild (SPOG) contract negotiation. Recommend CPC review CARE programs nationally to understand how they operate and succeed.

Attendance

Please reach out to CPC Executive Assistant (EA), Josette Wicker with any questions.

Bylaw Amendment

Article 11 amendments

- Amendment to Article (3)III.A.7: Requires that Commissioners keep their cameras on when attending meetings remotely.
- Amendment to Article (3)III.F: Clarifies the definition of “attended” to require that Commissioners attend the entirety of scheduled meetings to be eligible for stipends.
- At the next meeting, the commission will vote on these amendments. Open to questions and comments.
 - Commissioner Washington: Asked to hear from commissioners in support of cameras on, as the commission has voted on it a few times. Believes having the camera off does not mean a commissioner is not engaged. The current policy allows people to show up, whether they are sick or unable to be on camera.
 - Commissioner West: In support of the amendment to ensure people are engaged, and in this hybrid world, it feels like the bare minimum. Been in previous meetings where a commissioner was off camera and muted, and when they were called upon, they did not answer. As one of the few commissions that receive stipends, they owe it to the people they serve to be present and listening. Understand that commissioners may, at random, have moments they cannot have their cameras on.
 - Commissioner Tyler: When voting on this in the past, the concern was about the days commissioners wanted to attend but could not be in camera. The current amendment language is black-and-white and could include language that allows people to call in or to explain why they will be off camera, rather than not being able to attend at all.
 - CPC Executive Director (ED), Eci Ameh: Staff is happy to help draft amendments to the amendments that meet more of the commission’s needs and concerns. Send any amendments to the amendments to EA Wicker.
 - Commissioner Nsimbi: Been the one in meetings to call on a commissioner and they did not respond. Having cameras off doesn't mean they're not participating; this issue has just been happening more often.
 - Commissioner Tyler: Asked what the second amendment was.
 - Commissioner Johnson: read amendment to Article (3)III.F.
 - Commissioner Washington: Asked a clarification question and encouraged folks to have conversations about issues before amendments are made.

Department Updates

- **City Council:**
 - o Councilmember (CM) Kettle (Policy Director, Brent Lo): Public Safety Committee Meeting canceled on April 14th, and planning a special meeting on April 21st. Suspect any agenda overflow will spill over into the regularly scheduled April 28th meeting. Will be discussing CARE and the SPOG contract. Expect to hear from SPD and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD).
 - Executive Director (ED) Ameh: Is CARE a part of that presentation?
 - Policy Director Lo: Not sure, they are still working on the structure. Doing more of a look-back, and CARE is precluded from that.
 - o CM Saka (Policy Advisor, Brendan Kolding): CM Saka is interested in SPD's commitment to 30 by 30 (SPD hires represent 30% women by the year 2030). Have a policy intern working on this topic.
 - ED Ameh: Asked SPD if the 30 by 30 position was filled.
 - SPD Chief of Staff (COS), Alex Ricketts: There is a freeze on all external hiring until they go through the budget. The position, along with the DEI position, is ready.
- **Mayor's Office (MO)** (Executive Operations Manager (EOM), Esther Handy): Provided a recap of the mayor's public announcement two weeks ago about surveillance. OIG will continue its audit with the University of Pennsylvania, and in addition, the MO has contracted New York University's Policing Project to conduct an audit focused on data, governance, and privacy. While the auditors are in town, the MO would like them to meet with CPC.
 - o Commissioner West: What are the completion dates, and who is responsible for writing those policies?
 - EOM Handy: NYU audit will begin in April, expect it to take two to three months, but does not have a final date. Happy to follow up with findings. Policy would go through SPD.
 - SPD COS Ricketts: Believes Deputy Chief Sayles would be on the board to write that policy, then it would go to the Policy Department, before partners reviewed. Not sure on the timeframe, expect it to come out after the summer.
 - o Commissioner Holmes: What is considered a credible threat to turn the cameras near the stadium on?
 - EOM Handy: No details at this moment. A conversation is underway with SPD and public safety partners.

- o Commissioner Johnson: Asked clarifying questions about the OIG and MO audits.
- o CPC Policy Director, Taryn Darling: Asked OIG what the University of Pennsylvania's audit deadline was.
 - OIG Christine Berbelis: Not her project, but can request information from that team. Could ask the audit team to attend a future meeting and answer questions.
- o CPC Deputy Director (DD) Dr, Keith Wheeler: Has MO thought of ways to engage the most impacted communities for feedback?
 - EOM Handy: Many folks are engaging with MO proactively and hosted a town hall last Friday night. After the audit, plan to work with CPC and the Office of Civil Rights to scope out community engagement and experiences.
- **OPA Update** (Policy Manager, Justin Piccorelli): A Management Action Recommendation has been re-released, incorporating the mandatory reporting guidelines from RCW into policy. SPD recently declined a recommendation. Their Community Engagement attended a few community events. Reminded everyone that closed case summaries were on their website.
 - o EOM Handy: Clarified that a lot of people in town (in relation to FIFA) were not considered a credible threat.
- **OIG update** (Supervisor, Christine Berbelis): Department focused on finishing annual report.
 - o ED Ameh: Policy Director Lo identified from OIG's work plan that in 2026, OIG will collaborate with researchers and examine four key areas. An evaluation is expected to be completed in 2027. Information available on their website.
- **SPD update** (COS Ricketts): Currently working with MO to determine what is a credible threat and working on how to handle the cameras in that case. Noted that the cameras cannot be turned off and on; they'd need to stay on and not record. Also working with MO on immigration policy. ALPR has been cut until they workout geofencing.
 - o Commissioner Nsimbi: Provided an update on the case he'd contacted CPC and SPD about. Although a very unfortunate outcome, the family really appreciated the care CPC staff took with the case and the prompt responses from SPD once the connection was made.
 - o ED Ameh: Thanked Commissioner Nsimbi for being a consistent place community feels safe to go to when they do not feel like they're being heard.

- o Commissioner Washington: Who is the contact at SPD for use-of-force reporting to the Attorney General's Office? Clarified
 - SPD COS Ricketts: Data is Dr. Hunt, but I will get back to CPC on that.
 - ED Ameh/Policy Director Darling: Previously asked this question prior to Dr. Hunt starting, so glad to have the circle back.

Community Police Commissioner Updates

CPC Executive Director, Eci Ameh:

- Staff will be away for a conference during the June 3, 2026, meeting. Co-Chair asked to check with the commission about canceling the June 3, 2026, meeting and scheduling a special meeting on June 10, 2026.

Motion to cancel the June 3, 2026, CPC Monthly Meeting and reschedule for June 10, 2026.

Comments: Commissioner Williams will be out of town | Commissioner Tyler will be unavailable. | June 17, 2026, does not work.

Motion failed.

Motion to cancel the June 3, 2026, CPC Monthly Meeting.

Moved: Commissioner Nsimbi | **Seconded:** Commissioner William

Opposed: 0 | **Abstentions:** 0

Motion Passed.

- Provided an overview of Greensboro, NC, Site Visit of schools, School Resource Officer programs, Real Time Information Center, and met with Police Resource Neighborhood Center (PNRC) Officers. Explored what another city and its schools are doing to handle safety. Programs may work there because they have engendered trust and transparency, whereas Seattle has expressed low-levels of trust.
 - o SPD COS Ricketts: Explained the PNRC program.
- CPC DD Dr. Wheeler: Appreciated the ability to see the highlights along with the concerns and limitations that Greensboro has.
 - o SPD COS Ricketts: Starts with building trust and would like the opportunity to do so.
 - o Commissioner Williams: Told a story of his experience and the wisdom he tries to teach others.
 - SPD COS Ricketts: Wanted to flag that SPD is bringing back the Native American Advisory Board and plans to bring them to Before the Badge.

Workgroup Updates

Community Engagement Workgroup:

Commissioner Nsimbi:

- No update/provided statement earlier.

Public Policy Workgroup:

Commissioner West:

- Provided an update and comparison of our Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) to New Orleans and Greensboro. Concerns that our RTCC does not have its own IT to fix any broken cameras. Provided an overview of her experience at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference. Also noted that CPC has hosted two town halls recently and sponsored another one.
- Commissioner Holmes: Suggested connecting with the African American Museum for future events.
 - ED Ameh: Thank you for that suggestion.

Policy Updates

Legislative Update:

Senior Policy Advisor, Dani Sullivan:

- Provided an update on the Washington State Legislative Session from January-March 2026. Eight of our priority Bills passed, such as SB 5974, SB 5855, and SB 6002. Noted CPC signed on to the American Civil Liberty Union's (ACLU) letter in support of Bill SB 6002.

CPC Policy Director, Taryn Darling:

- In March, the Seattle City Council passed seven pieces of public safety-related legislation addressing interactions with federal law enforcement.

SPD Policy Review:

Senior Policy Advisor Sullivan:

- In February, CPC reviewed and provided feedback on two SPD policies: 4.020 and 5.120. In March, CPC reviewed two immigration-related policies: 6.020 and SPD's directive on immigration enforcement.

Community Engagement Updates

CPC Community Engagement (CE) Director, Celia Jackson:

- This month, CE launched a Crime Survivors Working Group and will continue meeting to ensure survivor perspectives shape policy positions. Key issues named: delays in serving protection orders, risk of losing Sexual Assault Advisory Panel's recommendations, victim advocate severe understaffing, and non-emergency-line concerns. The group provided feedback on what's needed to continue meeting. Invited commissioners to the next Community Engagement Workgroup meeting to discuss further.

After Action: Quarter One Report:

- In Quarter One, our office attended 16 unique events and connected with nearly 400 people. The community's number one concern remains the lack of safety. Other high concerns were gun safety, SPD bias, ICE and immigration, and surveillance.

Community Engagement Specialist, Mergitu Argo:

- Provided information on events, town halls, and advisory council meetings CPC has attended over the last quarter.

Communications Updates

CPC Communication Director, Rami El Gharib:

- Started Policy Friday's to inform the community on policies that impact them and in a quick form. Since starting, we've released two videos, gained 100 followers on our socials, and reached 3,000 accounts. Using our social media as a tool for community engagement. Encourage people to like and follow!

Adjourned at 11:00am