

Community Police Commission (CPC) Monthly Meeting

August 5, 2026

In-Person & Via Webex Conference Call

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Moment of Silence – Remembrance of John T Williams

16th Anniversary of the tragic killing of John T Williams

Attendance

CPC Attendees:

Joel Merkel, Anthony Gaedcke, Arlecier West, Joseph Seia, Jeremy Holmes, Rick Williams, Le’Jayah Washington, Ken Nsimbi, and Mark Mullens and Erika Newman

CPC Absences: Tascha Johnson, Jen Carl, Raven Tyler

CPC Staff: Eci Ameh, Taryn Darling, Josette Wicker, Mario Teulilo, and Masooma Ibrahimi

Review Agenda and Minutes

Motion to approve the draft agenda for 8/5/2026

Moved: Commissioner West | **Seconded:** Commissioner Seia

Opposed: 0 | **Abstentions:** 0

Action: Motion to approve the draft minutes for 7/1/2026

Moved: Commissioner Seia | **Seconded:** Commissioner West

Opposed: 0 | **Abstentions:** 0

Approved by voice vote.

Public Comment

- 4 public comments provided.

Community Police Commissioner Updates

Moment of Silence

Those who lost their lives and were harmed at the Bite of Seattle.

Commissioners and staff shared thoughts and reflections.

Attendance

- If you have any questions, please reach out to CPC Executive Assistant Josette Wicker.

Bylaw Amendment

Introducing Proposed Bylaw Amendments

- Commissioner Washington introduced two amendments to the recent bylaw amendments. Commissioner will vote at the September 2, 2026, meeting. Changes are underlined.

Article 3.A:

If a Commissioner is attending a Commission or Committee meeting remotely, the Commissioner must keep their camera on so that the Commissioner remains visible, unless under special circumstances. A Commissioner requesting an exception due to special circumstances shall notify the Co-Chairs prior to the Commission or Committee meeting, stating the reason for the request. If the circumstances prevent a Commissioner from providing notice prior to the meeting, the Commissioner shall notify the Co-Chairs as soon as reasonably possible. Participation by telephone shall be considered a special circumstance and shall follow the notification process for special circumstances.

Article 3.F.:

Commissioners may request stipends pursuant to Ordinance 126860. Stipends are intended to offset the financial burden incurred as a result of participating in Commission business. In order to receive a stipend for a given month, the requesting Commissioner shall have attended the entirety of each regularly scheduled Commission meeting and the entirety of at least one assigned Workgroup or Standing Committee meeting. There shall be a ten-minute grace period during the scheduled meeting time. The ten-minute grace period may be used at any point during a Commission or Committee meeting and is not limited to the beginning of the meeting. Requests for stipends shall be submitted to the Executive Director. There shall be no stipends awarded for service rendered prior to a request to the Executive Director.

Executive Director Updates

- **ED Eci Ameh:** Communications Director recruitment is underway. Hope to introduce the new director next month.
- **CPC Executive Assistant, Josette Wicker:** Reminder to commissioners that our “Undoing Institutional Racism” workshop training by the People’s Institute for Survival And Beyond is August 26th and 27th.
 - ED Ameh: Shoutout to Commissioner Seia for suggesting this training and offering to host it at Oceania Northwest.

Department Updates

- **Mayor's Office Update** (Director of Public Safety, Alison Holcomb):
 - Commissioner Merkel: As of now, the mayor has not attended a CPC meeting. There has been a lack of communication with the CPC regarding the removal of Chief Barnes. This is unacceptable, and there is an expectation of engagement with the community and CPC to dramatically change moving forward.
 - Director of Public Safety Alison Holcomb gave an introduction of her previous work experience.
 - Commissioner West: What were the specific failures of Chief Barnes to be asked to resign?
 - Director Holcomb: Unable to provide reasons for Chief Barnes' resignation, in part due to employment law. There were multiple reasons besides the Bite of Seattle that led to her decision to ask for his resignation.
 - Commissioner Merkel: In prior administrations, the senior CPC staff and Co-Chairs would communicate daily with the mayor's office and the mayor directly. The public is expecting a little more transparency right now. CPC was caught off guard because of the lack of engagement. It doesn't feel like the community is being listened to or valued because of the lack of communication. When can we expect Mayor Wilson to come to a CPC meeting? When can we expect the engagement and communication to change to the way the accountability system was designed? When should we expect the mayor to commit to bringing the CPC into the police chief selection process?
 - Director Holcomb: CPC will be a part of the selection process. They will be announcing what the process will look like, and the CPC will be an active participant in the selection process.
 - Commissioner West: Acknowledging communication from the Executive Director to the Mayor's Office prior to the firing of Chief Barnes is something that is small but counts towards building a relationship.
 - Director Holcomb: Repair is required for a path forward. Here to accept accountability for not having done the relationship work before and hope to build moving forward.
 - Commissioner Merkel: Reiterated the relationship CPC has had with previous mayors. Have received sensitive, confidential information.
 - Director Holcomb: There will still be decisions to keep information within the mayor's office. Looking forward to building a relationship where they can talk and share to information to the extent that they can.

- ED Ameh: From her perspective, this was not a relationship that hadn't been built; there was trust established, and it wasn't demonstrated in this situation. In this situation, the impact was so massive that, even without conveying the decision, the lack of heads-up left CPC unprepared to support communities mobilizing around the decision. This is an example of a severe crack in partnership and the accountability system CPC has participated in long before the mayor took office. As for the selection process, CPC should not find out what the process will be but should be a part of designing that process.
 - Director Holcomb: Deserves more than an acknowledgment that trust was broken, but an apology. Dropped the ball, and as they right the ship, they're here to do the work that's needed to repair the harm they caused.
- Commissioner Seia: As co-design efforts with the most impacted communities that suffer disparate outcomes because of decisions made by political leadership. The work that CPC does is to counteract the ways we operate within white supremacist values and lean into how we do this equitably and with the communities most impacted. City of Seattle and mayors have aligned with the interests of the privileged few, but we're trying to set forth another way of doing business.
- **OPA Update** (Policy Manager, Justin Piccorelli): Management Action Recommendations (MRA) regarding body-worn cameras and confidential informants are coming out soon. OPA's Outreach Team attended events and community meetings throughout the city. Shared information received at these events.
- **OIG update** (Audit Supervisor, Dan Pitts): No update.
- **SPD update** (Chief of Staff, Alex Ricketts):
 - SPD is working to get the school safety meeting back on track.
 - Commissioner West: Is there a tentative date?
 - Chief Ricketts: Meeting with Interim Chief Sayles and will get back to Eci to provide a status update.
 - Commissioner Gaedcke: Audio issues. *Due to timing and audio issues, moving SPD Culture and Anti-Bias Training to the September meeting.*

Workgroup Updates

Community Engagement Committee Workgroup (CEC):

- Commissioner Seia: Provided update on work and collaborations CEC has been focused on.

Public Policy Workgroup (PPWG):

- Commissioner Nsimbi: Provided an update on the tour of the Seattle Police Athletic Association gun range with Councilmember Lin's Office. They welcomed folks to come visit the space.

Legislative Workgroup (LWG):

- Commissioner West: Consolidated and have four CPC 2026-27 legislative priorities focused on civilian staff crisis response teams, surveillance, and collective bargaining agreements. Will meet with OIG and submitted final priorities to the Office of Intergovernmental Relations last month.

Community Engagement Updates

Community Engagement Specialist, Mario Teulilo:

- Shared the new Community Engagement Tool. Shoutout to commissioners for their engagement in July.
- Pulled out of an event due to safety concerns.
- With school starting back up soon, want to stay in the loop on the SPD meeting regarding safety.

Policy Updates

Senior Policy Advisor, Masooma Ibrahimi:

- Provided an update on the work the Policy Team has done this week.

Senior Policy Advisor, Dani Sullivan:

- Provided an update on the work that's been done to address SPD policy review's short turnaround time. SPD flowchart timeline is set to provide accountability partners drafts 30 days prior to the combined policy meeting.
- Reviewed six use-of-force policies with PPWG and provided recommendations.

Executive Session

Adjourned at 11:00am