

Seattle Community Police Commission



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For immediate release
June 21, 2019

Contact
Jesse Franz
(206) 678-4861
Jesse.Franz@Seattle.Gov

Statement on letter from community groups calling for strong police accountability system in Seattle

Dozens of community groups including the ACLU of Washington and NAACP Seattle-King County stood up today and said they expect the City to keep its police accountability promises.

Last month, Federal Judge James Robart ruled that the City had fallen out of full and effective compliance with the Consent Decree as a result of certain provisions in the recent police contract. The judge ordered the City, the Department of Justice, the court-appointed Monitoring Team, and the CPC to come up with a plan to bring the city into full compliance.

Before the recent contract, the City, with the help of community groups and the CPC, had already committed to what a strong police accountability system looked like. From 2013-2017, the City passed the landmark 2017 accountability package and committed to bargaining for its provisions.

Many of those reforms were bargained away afterward, in a replay of a pattern that has happened over and over again in Seattle and across the nation.

Earlier this year, the CPC outlined dozens of ways the new police contracts undermined the accountability package. But the reforms themselves aren't just one organization's suggestions. They were the result of an upswell of work from the community, and the City of Seattle already agreed to them and acknowledged they are critical to a strong police accountability system. What these community groups have asked for today is that the City not go backward from the 2017 accountability reforms.

The CPC looks forward to working with the Mayor's office, DOJ and Monitoring Team as required by the federal court.

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