



Seattle Community Police Commission

STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 18, 2024

CPC Statement from the Co-Chairs on SPD Officer Auderer's termination

The Community Police Commission (CPC) agrees with Seattle Police Department (SPD) Interim Chief Sue Rahr's decision to terminate SPD Detective Daniel Auderer.

We take it extremely seriously that a community member's tragic death was belittled to a laughing matter. There is no room in our community, or policing anywhere, for officers who have the capacity to conduct themselves the way Detective Auderer did on that call with Seattle Police Officers Guild (SPOG) President Mike Solan.

Our hearts reach out to Jaahnavi Kandula's family and Seattle Indian community members. We hope this decision helps them during this long and difficult healing process.

The CPC is also hopeful that this decision represents Interim Chief Rahr's first step in firmly addressing the ongoing [cultural issues at SPD](#). This event has shone a light on existing issues within the department and Detective Auderer's actions and behavior that evening serve as a reminder that we have a lot of work to do towards addressing the culture that tolerated that conversation in the first place.

The people of Seattle expect its police department to uphold professionalism, foster trust with the community, and ensure public safety. The work to ensure that SPD embraces transparent accountability and reflects the values of the community it serves remain top priorities for CPC.

Background information

On January 23, 2023, a Seattle Police Officer struck and killed a pedestrian while responding to an overdose call. SPD Officer Kevin Dave's vehicle reached a speed of 74-mph in a 25-mph zone with its emergency lights activated and siren chirping, but not fully activated. The vehicle struck pedestrian Jaahnavi Kandula in a crosswalk, throwing her an estimated 138 feet. Tragically, she died.

On that evening, SPOG Vice President Detective Daniel Auderer was assigned to participate in the collision investigation. Nearly eight months later, on September 11, 2023, SPD released a Body Worn Video (BWV) that recorded a phone conversation between Detective Auderer and SPOG President Mike

Solan from the evening of her death. On the video, Detective Auderer is heard laughing, mocking, and making light of Kandula's death and even joking that her life "had limited value."

On September 20, 2023, the CPC Co-Chairs [sent a letter](#) to SPD Chief of Police to recommend placing Detective Daniel Auderer on indefinite unpaid leave while the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) conducted its investigation into his alleged misconduct. We further requested that SPD immediately engage in a community and police accountability partner workgroup to address repeated concerns with the culture of policing and police practices at SPD. Neither of those recommendations happened.

Ultimately, the OPA completed its investigation into Auderer's comments and recommended that he be suspended or terminated because he violated SPD's professionalism and bias-based policing policies.

Finally, on July 17, 2024, SPD Interim Chief Sue Rahr announced Daniel Auderer's termination from the department.

The Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) has spent the last 18 months working on policy and community outreach related to the loss of Jaahnavi Kandula's life. For example, we've been drafting and [recommending specific changes](#) to SPD's emergency vehicle operations policy in an effort to prevent a tragedy like this in the future. Additionally, we've been engaged closely with Kandula's Indian community members, who are distraught and greatly impacted by this unspeakable loss. Detective Auderer's outrageous comments only further devastated the community who were already grieving.

Auderer's termination represents a first step in SPD listening to and taking action on the recommendations of its accountability partners, as spelled out in the 2017 Accountability Ordinance.

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The CPC listens to, amplifies, and builds common ground among communities affected by policing in Seattle. We champion policing practices centered in justice and equity. The CPC is independent and led by volunteer commissioners. Learn more about the CPC at seattle.gov/community-police-commission.

CPC Co-Chairs

Joel Merkel
Rev. Harriett Walden

Media Contact

Emma Shepard
Communications Advisor
Community Police Commission
Emma.Shepard@seattle.gov