

Seattle
Community
Police Commission

SENT VIA EMAIL

January 21, 2022

Interim Chief Adrian Diaz
Seattle Police Department
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Inspector General Lisa Judge
Office of Inspector General
Lisa.judge@seattle.gov

Director Andrew Myerberg
Office of Police Accountability
Andrew.Myerberg@seattle.gov

Re: Reaching true accountability

Dear Interim Chief Diaz, Inspector General Judge, and Director Myerberg,

During 2020, the Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) was able to offer feedback gathered from the community about SPD's proposed changes to the use of force and crowd management policies. We look forward to more opportunities in the upcoming year to bring community voice to SPD's policy and training revision processes.

While we are happy to review policy changes and training revisions as an equal participant in the accountability system, we recognize that there is a fundamental flaw in this process: officers are rarely held accountable for violating departmental policies and acting in ways that deviate from their training. Further, the few officers who face discipline can often delay or avoid true accountability by engaging in costly, time-consuming litigation. We can work diligently to improve SPD's policies, but real change requires real accountability. Ultimately, if Department members are not held accountable for policy violations, then changes in policy do not matter. The CPC urges all our accountability partners and SPD to consider what it means to achieve true accountability for officers who violate policies and commit misconduct. It is vital that officers be held accountable for their actions to rebuild public trust.

In partnership,

Katherine Seibel, Douglas Wagoner, and Rev. Harriet Walden