

Seattle
Community
Police Commission

September 15th, 2023

VIA E-MAIL

Dr. K. Srikar Reddy
Consul General
Consulate General of India,
540 Arguello Blvd,
San Francisco, California – 94118

Consul General Reddy,

We are writing on behalf of the Seattle Community Police Commission, one of three independent police oversight and accountability entities within Seattle’s police accountability system. The Commission’s role is to amplify community voices in making policy recommendations to ensure effective and constitutional policing. We received your communication on September 13, 2023, expressing your profound concerns regarding the tragic incident involving an Indian national, who lost her life after a local police department vehicle struck her in a crosswalk.

The sentiments articulated in your communication deeply resonate with the Seattle community and the Seattle Community Police Commission. We are both shocked and heartbroken by the reprehensible comments made by an officer investigating the collision. Such comments are not only dehumanizing to the woman who lost her life, but they further erode the community’s trust in its police department.

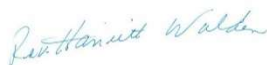
We wish to express our agreement that there must be a thorough and independent investigation into this matter. It is imperative that such an inquiry serves not only to hold those responsible accountable for their actions but also to prevent any recurrence of such inhumane conduct in the future. We are pleased that the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) has begun this work, and look forward to their final report. The Seattle Police Accountability Ordinance authorizes the Community Police Commission to review closed OPA cases and provide policy recommendations, and we intend to do so in this case.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring a more accountable, respectful, and just Seattle Police Department, and we appreciate your engagement on this crucial matter. We will actively monitor the developments in this case and maintain an open line of communication with your consulate to ensure that justice prevails.

Sincerely,



Reverend Patricia Hunter, Co-Chair



Reverend Harriett Walden, Co-Chair



Joel Merkel, Co-Chair