

Statement of Values: CPC 2023 Legislative Session

CPC staff requests a vote on a **statement of values** to guide work for minor law enforcement and community-related bills¹ during the 2023 legislative session.

Session moves very quickly, and staff are often requested to analyze bills with turnaround times of as little as 24 hours. Staff believes that a general statement of guiding principles is necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the ordinance and provide a quick response to the Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) that includes the voice of the CPC along with other voices from SPD, OIG, OPA, LAW, and other departments.

This does not preclude a full Commission discussion and/or vote for any bills of their choosing, and staff will make all efforts to bring major policing-related bills to the full Commission for decisions about advocacy. All Commissioners are welcome to bring concerns about or input about any bill to the State Legislative Agenda workgroup.

By Ordinance 125315, the CPC is charged to “Identify and advocate for reforms to state laws that will enhance public trust and confidence in policing and the criminal justice system.” CPC is further charged to “review and provide input to OPA, OIG, SPD, and other City departments and offices, including the Mayor, Council, and City Attorney on the police accountability system, police services, and SPD policies and practices of significance to the public.” This statement of values expresses the intent of the Commission to guide the work of CPC staff during the 2023 legislative session, and is separate from the priorities identified by the Mayor and voted on by City Council in December in [Res 32076](#).

CPC supports legislation that:

- Is consistent with Ordinance 125315
- Recognizes the independence of the CPC to assess the applicability of policies to community concerns separately from the goals of the city
- Promotes effective, constitutional policing that facilitates the trust, respect, and support of the community
- Addresses community concerns when applicable as expressed in Ordinance 125315

¹ CPC staff is assigned bills for review by to provide input into the city’s legislative agenda. This statement of values applies to bills that are not major policy priorities for the CPC, but still speak to the general concerns as expressed in Ordinance 125315. Examples include establishing a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons cold case unit in the state Attorney General’s office, allowing impact fee revenue to be utilized by law enforcement for capital development projects, and sharing unredacted police body camera footage with defense attorneys earlier as part of the discovery process.