

NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION RELEASES **ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM STRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations focus on creating robust civilian oversight of police accountability

(Seattle) – On May 1, the Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) released its accountability system structure recommendations. All of the CPC’s accountability system recommendations—structural, as well as those involving policies and practices—align with key values it has identified as necessary for an effective accountability system: accessibility, legitimacy, transparency, consistency, efficiency and continuous improvement.

The values of Constitutional policing and the protection of civil rights are of paramount importance. Civilian oversight of police accountability must be robust because, in the end, the police are answerable to the public for upholding these values.

“For decades, our communities have called for reform,” said Diane Narasaki Co-Chair of the CPC. “Now is the ideal time in Seattle to effect change. The City, under the DOJ Consent Decree and at the start of its negotiations with the police unions, is in a powerful position to make vital reforms to the police accountability system and rebuild community trust in SPD.”

Co-Chair Lisa Daugaard added, “The CPC, informed by community feedback, has worked collaboratively with many of the parties charged to assess SPD’s accountability system, including the OPA Director and Auditor, the Mayor’s police advisor, the Department of Justice, and the federal Monitor. We believe our recommendations incorporate or closely align with their views.”

The CPC’s proposed structural changes, combined with its 55 recommended policy and practice changes, will strengthen the checks and balances built into the police accountability system. All of the CPC’s recommendations should be considered together, since they are an integrated set of reforms.

The CPC has twelve commissioners, ten of whom were present at the meeting where the Accountability Structure recommendations were unanimously adopted.

The recommendations are attached to this email and can also be found on the CPC website at <http://www.seattle.gov/community-police-commission/cpc-recommendations>.

To learn more about the Community Police Commission, please visit www.seattle.gov/community-police-commission.

The Community Police Commission (CPC) was established by the City of Seattle to provide community input on proposed Seattle Police Department (SPD) reforms. The CPC was mandated under a memorandum of understanding between the City and the U.S. Department of Justice which details work to be done over three years to ensure bias-free policing and address the past use of excessive force. The CPC's charge is represent a broad range of community perspectives and to reach out and engage communities directly, to get critical feedback, and to then recommend changes to SPD policies and practices.

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