

MAY 20, 2013

CPC RESPONSE TO MONITOR'S 1ST SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Overview

The Community Police Commission (CPC) was created as part of the July 2012 settlement between the Department of Justice and the City of Seattle and formalized by City of Seattle Ordinance 14021 in March 2013, with the goal of ensuring that police services are delivered to the people of the City of Seattle in a manner that fully complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States, effectively ensures officer and public safety, and promotes public confidence in SPD and the services that it delivers.

Review of Monitor Reports

In addition to a range of responsibilities, one role of the CPC is to review the report and recommendations of the Seattle Police Monitor. The first semiannual report of the Monitor was released on April 26, 2013.

The report discusses the Monitor's activity during the first six months of work. The report includes a detailed discussion of several critical areas related to the work of the CPC, as follows:

1. How the SPD currently investigates and renders judgment on use of lethal and less-than-lethal force;
2. SPD progress in training officers to handle encounters with the homeless, the mentally ill, and individuals in heightened emotional states;
3. The creation of SPD policies to deal with traffic and pedestrian stops;
4. The review of SPD policies and training to promote bias-free policing.

Since release of the report, the CPC has been able to review the report, as well as discuss progress on compliance issues with the Monitor and monitoring team at our May 8, 2013 meeting.

CPC Actions

The report describes both important milestones from the previous six months, as well as challenges to be confronted in the future. As such, the CPC has accepted the report of the Monitor and has organized into three separate sub-committees to continue our own work related to Stops and Detentions, Biased Policing and Community Engagement. As work proceeds on these issues, the CPC reserves the right to both further comment on the report of the Monitor and issue a CPC report(s) on any or all of these topics.

Finally, the CPC appreciates the work of the Monitoring team, the SPD leadership and the DOJ in moving forward on implementing the terms of the consent decree and the MOU. We look forward to continuing work with them.