

Seattle Community Police Commission

Our City. Our Safety. Our Police. **Better Together.**

June 8, 2016

VIA EMAIL

Dear Signatories of the November 30, 2015 Letter to the Seattle Police Monitor,

Is the City of Seattle finally going to be able to move forward with police accountability reform legislation?

We are awaiting a decision from the federal judge overseeing the consent decree process on whether the Court will give the City the green light to move forward. We are hopeful the time for reform is now. Implementation of such changes is a vital step to building the community's trust in local law enforcement.

The Community Police Commission (CPC) was charged under the consent decree with recommending improvements to Seattle's police oversight structure. In 2014 the CPC made concrete [reform recommendations](#) after a public-engagement program involving many community-based organizations and individual participants. The recommendations were endorsed by the Mayor and other stakeholders last summer, but the federal judge halted the City Council's consideration of the police accountability recommendations package until he could determine whether the proposed changes would require amendment of the consent decree.

Since then, at the request of the Court, [the City](#), the [US Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), and [the CPC](#) have filed two rounds of legal briefs about possible approaches to reform, with the latest being last month after a [series of in-depth meetings](#).

All of the briefs agreed: Police accountability reform should be subject to political debate and decision through the City's legislative process, and the City Council should be allowed to act now with Court review afterward on certain narrowly defined areas within its jurisdiction. The legislation could then go into effect after the Court's review.

Although the CPC opposes further delay and continues to support the police accountability recommendations package endorsed in 2015, we are using this time to discuss potential modifications to further strengthen important provisions. We anticipate finalizing any such revisions by July, and will update you with more information as it becomes available.

How You Can Participate

- (1) We've just learned that the Court has scheduled a status conference on Tuesday, June 28 at 9:00 am, in the federal courthouse at 7th & Stewart in downtown Seattle. Your presence is welcome in the

courtroom to hear from the judge. Depending on his decision, we may ask the City and DOJ to appeal, and informed community voices would be a great asset in that process.

- (2) Assuming the Court allows the City to proceed with the accountability reform process, we ask that you support the final CPC legislative package and advocate for its swift adoption by the City Council.

We welcome the help of our community allies in making the summer of 2016 the season of meaningful police accountability reform. Seattle can't afford another year without it.

Sincerely,



Rev. Harriett Walden, Co-Chair
Community Police Commission



Lisa Dugaard, Co-Chair
Community Police Commission

Cc:
Community Police Commission