

Community Police Commission (CPC)

Date: March 18, 2020

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

Location: City Hall, Room 370, 600 4th Avenue

via (Conference Call 206-858-8066 code, 198657)



CPC Attendees: Rev. Harriett Walden (Co-chair), Prachi Dave (Co-chair), Rev. Aaron Williams (Co-chair), Emma Cateague, Colleen Echohawk, Erin Goodman, Brandy Grant, Monisha Harrell, Natasha Moore, Ofc. Mark Mullens, Alina Santillan, Joseph Seia, Douglas Wagoner.



CPC Absent: Scott Bachler, Suzette Dickerson, Esther Lucero, Asha Mohamed

CPC Staff: Nick Christian, Karen Chung, Jesse Franz, Roxana Garcia, Bessie Scott, Alfreda Wilson

Stake Holders: Ron Ward-Monitors Office, Councilmember Morales, Austin Miller-Mayor, Newell Aldrich-Council, Brittany Cirineo-DOJ, Howard Gail



Review Agenda and Approve Minutes / Announcements

"Approve the CPC meeting agenda from 3/4/2020."

There are no minutes to approve on this agenda



DOJ/ Monitors Office Update

DOJ – No Updates

Monitors Office – No Updates



OTHER BUSINESS:

CPC Commissioner Seats



CPC tracks Commissioner attendance, we have added section tabs on the list for workgroups and committee packets. These packets were sent out to commissioners. Commissioners were advised that if they did not receive a packet Bessie will send one to them.

Action Item: Bessie will send commissioner packets out upon request to those who did not receive one




Co-Chair Updates




Co-Chairs advised Commissioners on Rules of conducting a conference call. Rules discussed were; announce your name when you speak or if you leave the conference call. Commissioners are to state their name and the time they leave the call. If commissioners re-join the call, they are to announce their name and the time they rejoin the conference call.

Co-Chair – advised Commissioners that the previous meetings that were set will be rescheduled into conference calls for CPC, organizations and officials. This is anticipated to continue with workgroups, and meetings through May. Commissioners will see how this arrangement is going and how productive this may be, then re-visit this arrangement.

Co-Chair -advised Commissioners to stay abreast of calendar invites as this will be the mode of communication going forward. Other communication platforms are being reviewed for conference calls such as Zoom, and you will be advised of the progress. Commissioners were advised to pay attention to the emails to track information coming from CPC and workgroups.

Commission may move to meeting once per month after May. Commission was advised to be patient with the new process. 


I-ED Staff Updates

New Staff member – Alfreda Wilson – Joined CPC staff Temp Admin Specialist 
Karen Chung will be leaving the CPC over the next few weeks, she has been offered a position with King County.

Commissioner Communication

Email Use and Access - All Commissioners will need to use Seattle.gov email. Personal Emails will no longer be permitted due to network issues. There was a glitch in the system and some emails were deleted.


A test email was sent out to Commissioners by Bessie to your Seattle.gov account. If you received the test email, please respond so that we know you are receiving information and your email is working properly. If you are having issues accessing your Seattle.gov email account, please advise Bessie and she will get this resolved. New commissioners will receive notification and instructions regarding their Seattle.gov email access, from Alfreda within a few days. The Seattle.gov email is essential in receiving information from the CPC, and for your workgroup communication.

Action item: Bessie will follow-up with commissioners who are having issues accessing their Seattle.gov email and she will get this resolved. 


Action item: Commissioner's will follow-up with Bessie if they are having issues with accessing their Seattle.gov email and it will be resolved.


Action item: Alfreda will contact the new commissioner's regarding their Seattle.gov email access, an email will be sent to commissioner's regarding sign in access.


Police Practices Workgroup

King County Inquest Process  Follow up with commissioner's question on signing on to the Amicus Brief. In light of the current situation this has been suspended for a few months. Non-action item until it picks back up. We will bring information to you at a later date regarding the Amicus Brief and any accompanying letter. No information right now, and we don't anticipate any movement on this item until June or July. We will pick up with this action item at that time.

The piece we discussed in the Police Practice work group prior to this meeting was regarding a response to the disparaging view of the conversation we have been having with Chief Best. We are going to provide a response to Chief Best reviewing the overall frame work regarding Policing. We have circulated the response letter to CPC for Chief Best and will need the CPC input back by Friday.

Karen give a brief recap of the audit under the "Sustainment Plan"; the city was required to conduct an audit regarding disparity in policing. Two parts of the audit were completed, and the CPC has been engaged in following those audits. The CPC has repeatedly requested meetings with SPD to develop strategies to address disparity in policing. After the final audit was submitted to the court; the CPC sent a letter to SPD reiterating our desire to meet with them and strategize on addressing disparity per SPD policy. In the letter sent and approved by the CPC, we pointed out data analysis included in the report, that suggest that one cause of disparity in policing in Seattle is officer bias. We received a response to that letter from Chief Best. Just moments ago, when this meeting started, I sent you all a copy of Chief Best response to the initial letter. I also sent you a and a draft response to Chief Best's letter that Practices Workgroup has drafted. Co-Chairs will send that response back on Friday. Between now and Friday please review and give comments and feed back to Karen by Friday. Given that the letter does not include decisions or recommendations; given that the letter is a continuation of the conversation and requests to meet, we did not think it needed another approval by the PCP. However, we wanted to be transparent and show you the letter and give you an opportunity comment or state your concerns before we respond. You will have  close of business on Friday to give your feedback regarding this letter.


Action item: Amicus Brief on hold for a few months. Will revisit at a later date, June or July. 

Action item: CPC will give responses/concerns to Karen by close of business Friday, regarding the letter to Chief Best. 

Action item: Karen will send the letter back to Chief Best after receiving concerns/comments from the CPC.

Annual Report

The Annual Report is near completion and Karen sent the layout draft to the CPC, March 17, for review and pre-approval. The pre-approval of the draft is due today, March 18 from CPC. If commissioners approve the draft today, any additional minor changes to the draft layout are due March 30. The layout is finalized, and minor changes may be considered. Publication will occur March 31. Commissioner's will have an opportunity to weigh in on the Executive Letter which will be included the report.

Action item: Commissioner will send the pre-approval of the draft Annual Report to Karen by close of business March 18. 

Action item: Additional minor changes/edits to the draft are due to from CPC to Karen by March 30.

Action item: The Executive Letter will be sent by Karen to the CPC for review edits and minor/edits are due by March 30.

Action item: The Annual Report will be published March 31.

Motion to approve the Draft Annual Report

Moved: Alina Santillan

Seconded: Natasha Moore

Yes: 13

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Late arrival did not vote: 0

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Roll call of vote:

Prachi Dave - yes

Rev. Walden - yes

Rev. Williams - yes

Emma Cateague - yes

Colleen Echohawk - yes

Erin Goodman - yes

Brandy Grant - yes

Monisha Harrell - yes

Natasha Moore - yes

Officer Mullen - yes


Alina Santillan - yes


Joseph Seia

Douglas Wagner


COVID-19 Response to the City of Un-housed people and people in Facilities

An E-mail was sent to the CPC last night regarding COVID response in the cities of un-housed persons and facilities. Last week when the corona virus was emerging we (CPC Staff), sent compiled questions to the Mayor's office, SPD and Seattle Human Services regarding the Navigation Team and what their responses were going to be during this time, in response to COVID-19. Questions posted in the letter to address Emergency Executive Orders, status of

shelter for the un-housed people in the city, recommendations from Council for emergency regarding hygiene stations, stopping all sweeps unless it they posed imminent threat to public health. We were planning to bring this information to you today. However, yesterday we heard from a blog post, by Human Services that the City has suspended all sweeps, basically,  unless they posed treat to public safety or public health. They are accelerating hygiene practices by bringing out trailers with sanitary products and cleaning stations. That is good news! We wanted to open the conversation to you, (CPC), to ask for your feedback regarding what you are hearing from the community, regarding equity during this time, and how we respond to this emergency, efficiently, effectively and equitably.

We sent a  mail yesterday to CPC regarding these issues and requested you think about this. The email included what CPC Staff had been hearing from the social media and community members with some concerns. We wanted to open the floor to have a conversation with you to see where the CPC's place would be during this emergency.

Some of the ideas we have been hearing:

- How are we supporting the most vulnerable people who may be un-housed; have underlining health conditions, and people who are 65+ 
- People experiencing domestic violence at this time
- Should SPD continue to give out parking infractions, while people are self-quarantining?
- Is there accessibility to information/services/resources from the City on the website for community?
- Community internet accessibility to get information regarding City services
- What precautions are being considered at SPD detention facilities and are they capable of dealing with this outbreak while people are confined?
- If not, should we be limiting detention to only the detainees who pose a threat to public safety and or public health?

The CPC was asked to respond to some of the information presented.

Some responses from the CPC: 

- Resources on the City website would be helpful for referrals to community for services.
- Make information accessible to the community who are marginalized.
- Assist community to navigate to find resources needed to survive an economic downturn.
- Amazon and Safeway are hiring at this time.
- Be mindful when at the grocery store. Some community members have vouchers and may have limitation on shopping items, therefore only get what you need and do not hoard items.
- Is there an uptick in crime, personal and property crime and if so what area?
- Resources are accessible on the City of Seattle web page, where there is a link to the resource page. This page can be a good resource for community if CPC is asked and can refer others.
- COVID-19 Community group is a resource that community may utilize.
- Are there other languages on the City's web site?
- PSA from the City to bring people together at this time

Councilmember Morales stated that there is still governance work to do in this crisis.

Councilmember Morales thanked the CPC for all the continuing your part of that work.

Councilmember stated that the following steps are being taken by councilmembers and the Mayor's office:

- Newsletters are being sent out regularly from Councilmembers and the Mayor's office addressing and updating constituents.
- Information is being shared regarding what we are learning about the virus. What we are working on in addressing the crisis response.
- The Mayor is rolling out several Executive Orders to aid artist, service food workers, and small businesses.
- PSA is a good idea. A lot of community interaction, such as Facebook and mutual aid groups in Rainer Beach and other group are working to make sure that young people are getting fed.

- A lot of work for City Government to do but, many resources throughout the community and neighbors are coming together.
- Social media – people are working together to feed young people.
- Check on your neighbors, give them a meal, leave it on their doorstep if you cannot talk to them.
- There is a way to do it and to protect yourself and keep yourself safe.
- Neighbor to Neighbor, check in on one another and stick together.
- PSA is a good idea and I would be happy to talk offline about this.

CPC thanked Councilmember Morales for being part of the meeting today.

Action item: Follow-up with Councilmember Morales regarding possible PSA.

Other comments on this issue were as follows:

- Councilmember Herbal has expressed interest in the area of SPD Detention Facilities, and that they are safe. Noel from Councilmember Herbal's office stated there have been inquiries but no updates at this time.
- Tacoma is suspending parking enforcement; this suspension is not in Seattle as yet and the CPC will continue to monitor.
- SPD is currently buying hotel space to quarantine officers who may have come in contact with people with the virus, to avoid the spread of the virus to their family members.
- The CPC may be able to look into the resources being offered to the un-housed populations, over 65 with underlying health conditions and who are dealing with domestic violence.
- We will all have an opportunity to be creative; compassionate, kind and caring through this time as this unfolds.

Are there any other items to address at this time regarding engagement or from what Councilmember Morales spoke of or anything else?



Action item: Compile what was discussed here to include in the draft letter that Karen or Jessie will circulate to the commission before sending it out.

Executive session was not available today, because the attorney was not available.



CPC members spoke about being positive and having gratitude and being grateful.



Meeting adjourned at 10:59



SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS



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