



VIA EMAIL

June 6, 2019

RE: Seattle Community Police Commission Letter regarding the SPD Community Service Officer Program

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, The Seattle Police Department received your letter regarding the Community Service Officer (CSO) program. We are excited after extensive outreach and engagement, which included feedback from the Community Policing Commission (CPC), that the CSO program is now moving into the implementation phase. This is a perfect opportunity to re-offer a briefing of the CSO program to the CPC.

The CSO's program design was directly from community feedback from our diverse communities. CSOs do not carry weapons nor enforce criminal laws. Instead, they serve to bridge the service gap on non-criminal calls for service and perform a variety of public safety-related community service work. The CSO's areas of focus will be on community outreach and engagement, navigating the various social services systems, and youth outreach and diversion that can better assist in reducing disparities in the criminal justice system.

The Seattle Police Department has been actively involved in the Community Engagement System Partners (CESP) meetings coordinated by the CPC for several months. Lieutenant Rivera, who is the Commander overseeing the CSO program, will continue to be a conduit for regular updates and feedback for the program. SPD has consistently publicly briefed the Seattle City Council and kept the Mayor's Office informed of the progress and decisions on the project.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue with the CPC regarding the CSO program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Best".

Carmen Best

Chief of Police  
Seattle Police Department