

MINUTES

Community Police Commission (CPC)

February 11, 2015, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
City Hall, 3rd Floor, Room 370

CPC Attendees: Lisa Daugaard, co-chair, Rev. Harriett Walden, co-chair, Jay Hollingsworth, David Keenan, Marcel Purnell, Lt. Ron Rasmussen, Jennifer Shaw (by conference call), Rev. Aaron Williams

CPC Absent: Claudia D'Allegri, Melinda Giovengo, Enrique Gonzalez, Ofc. Kevin Stuckey

CPC Staff: Fé Lopez, Anne Bettsworth, Tracy Whitlatch, Betsy Graef

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA AND MINUTES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moved, seconded, and passed (7-0-0): "To approve with no changes 2/11/15 agenda and 1/28/15 CPC meeting minutes."

SPECIAL GUEST – ANNETTE HAYES, ACTING US ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Acting US Attorney Hayes discussed her work as the First Assistant US Attorney to US Attorney Jenny Durkan and her current role. She thanked the commissioners for their important work. The commission requested to be involved in the final review of the Use of Force policy and requested a copy of the working draft. They will be forwarding the policy for the CPC's review and feedback.

Action Item

DISPARATE IMPACT ANALYSIS PROPOSAL

Staff shared Katherine Beckett's proposed methodology for identifying factors that shape enforcement and non-enforcement of ordinances prohibiting public consumption of alcohol and marijuana. The goal is to identify alternatives to existing practices that may help to reduce racial disproportionalities in citations while also promoting public safety and health.

The proposal describes how the consultant will conduct focus group interviews (and individual interviews where focus group interviews are not feasible) with SPD personnel, community stakeholders, and service providers in the West, East and South Precincts.

Questions and timing for the interviews will be developed by a workgroup of CPC commissioners, technical advisors and Professor Beckett.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

Accountability Workgroup – The workgroup will draft the CPC’s position regarding state legislation related to body-worn cameras.

SPD Community Engagement Assessment Workgroup – CPC staff is meeting with community based organizations to develop contracts for the listening sessions.

Training Workgroup – SPD’s training schedule for the year will be released shortly. Currently, commanders are scheduled to attend institutional bias-free policing training in late spring. Staff met with the Office of Civil Rights to discuss the upcoming SPD Institutional Bias-free Policing Training and possible officer surveys. The workgroup will be meeting with SPD’s Training Section this week to discuss OCR’s recommendations, CPC’s involvement and timing of future trainings.

SPD RESPONSE TO PROTESTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT DEBRIEF

The CPC hosted a public forum on Friday, February 6 at the New Holly Gathering Hall to hear firsthand the concerns and experiences of those who participated in the Seattle post-Ferguson and Black Lives Matter demonstrations. The forum was attended by about 50 people. A number of individuals provided testimony, and several video recordings of interactions between protesters and the police were shown. The key issues identified included:

1. Movement control
2. Inaccurate statements made by SPD leadership
3. Targeting specific individuals such as leaders of demonstrations
4. Inaccurate incident reporting by officers
5. Disparate treatment of protesters based on race
6. Out of policy/illegal use of pepper spray
7. Unnecessary use of intimidating tactics

The CPC would also like to host a similar listening session of SPD officers and sergeants but due to ongoing OPA investigations regarding SPD’s response to the demonstrations, the CPC cannot ask officers about specific events. Officers are not allowed to comment on incidents that are currently under investigation. Consequently, the CPC will try to work with SPD to send out an anonymous survey to officers and ask general questions related to their views of working and interacting with people during the recent protests.

The CPC will write a report and highlight any significant issues for further discussion with SPD.

Staff has recommended facilitator training for staff and commissioners.

Action item

BODY CAMERA POSITION

The CPC believes it is premature to implement a body camera program in Seattle until and unless state laws are modified to address complex privacy and public disclosure concerns. The

Commission does not believe there has yet been sufficient public engagement in these issues to inform the necessary legislative modifications, which implicate important and competing values of public transparency and officer and civilian privacy. Therefore the CPC suggest that the state legislature and the City of Seattle push pause and approach this topic after further deliberation and community dialogue.

Moved, seconded, and passed (6-1-0): "To approve a press release stating that the CPC opposes legislation action of any kind as it requires further study."

Action Item

OTHER BUSINESS

Staff and Co-chairs will draft a response to the Monitor's Semi-Annual Report and will share the draft at an upcoming CPC meeting.

The CPC retreat planned for February 28th will involve discussions revolving around the current and future role and responsibilities of the CPC and its oversight work; commissioner expectations, needs and priorities for the remainder of the year; and the upcoming work of the workgroups and community relations. The CPC will also discuss commissioner and staff expectations and how the CPC will maintain its culture and ability to work together.

The draft Community Engagement and Communications Specialist job description was shared with the CPC. The PDQ for the position went out on February 10th. Staff asked commissioners to start recruiting for applicants. The job description will be posted online in a few weeks.

Staff met with six members of a Russian Delegation and their interpreters last week. They were very interested in how the CPC was created, how it engages with community, and how it works to increase police accountability.

SPD convened a meeting to discuss SPD's interactions with the community during the recent demonstrations with the CPC co-chairs and Executive Director, DOJ, Monitoring team and Seattle City Attorney's Office. SPD discussed their tactics and perspectives of the protests and tactics used by protesters. The CPC discussed the need for SPD to talk more openly with the community before and after protests to discuss and address issues on an ongoing basis.

Some commissioners participated in the Wingate demonstration last weekend. The commissioners that participated stated that they felt the demonstration went well.

CPC and Staff attended the NACOLE Symposium at Seattle University on February 6th. Commissioner Rev. Aaron Williams presented Betsy Graef's paper, "The Seattle Community Police Commission: Lessons Learned and Considerations for Effective Community Involvement in Reform Following Settlements".

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- Staff will follow-up with the DOJ regarding the use of force policy draft. In addition, staff will work with the SPD, DOJ, Monitor, and the City Attorney's Office to determine the timeline for CPC to provide input and feedback.
- Staff will work with a small group of commissioners to create questions for an anonymous officer survey for the SPD Response to Demonstrations report.
- Staff will send out a press release regarding the CPC's Body Camera position.