

MINUTES

Community Police Commission (CPC)

October 4, 2017, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Seattle City Hall, Room 370

CPC Attendees: Claudia D’Allegrì, Enrique Gonzalez (co-chair), Isaac Ruiz (co-chair), Rev. Harriett Walden (co-chair), Emma Catague, Lisa Daugaard, Jay Hollingsworth, Rev. Aaron Williams

CPC Absent: Colleen Echohawk, Melinda Giovengo, Cpt. Joe Kessler, Ofr. Kevin Stuckey

CPC Staff: Fé Lopez, Anne Bettesworth, Tracy Whitlatch, Betsy Graef, Karen Chung

CPC Staff Absent: Minty LongEarth

Moment of Silence

The CPC held a moment of silence for the victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the shooting in Las Vegas.

Review Agenda and Approve Minutes / Announcements

Moved, seconded, and passed (6-0-1): “To approve the minutes from 09-20-2017.”

Community Service Officer Update

The City set aside \$2 million to revive the Community Service Officer program. Wanting the program design to be community-led, the City set aside some of the allocated funds for SPD to engage communities across Seattle. SPD contracted with the Office for Civil Rights to lead community engagement efforts. Over the summer, OCR and SPD held dozens of meetings with various community groups and are currently working to develop a report of findings. They are expected to finalize their reports by the end of October. An interdepartmental team (IDT) will use the findings to inform a final program design by the end of the year. The CPC will review the final program design to determine whether and how well it aligns with the community’s expectations.

Executive Order: Secondary Employment

Mayor Burgess issued an executive order last week asking for a coordinated effort to determine greater oversight of SPD’s secondary employment process. The police accountability ordinance directs SPD to manage secondary employment of officers, and the CPC made a recommendation to look into this issue in 2014.

The executive order creates a taskforce to study this issue. The CPC is not on the taskforce, but the taskforce is directed to work and consult with the CPC in addition to the City Attorney’s Office, the City Auditor, the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, and New Americans Committee, the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild, and the Seattle Police Management Association.

CPC staff have connected with SPD and informed them that we are ready to work with the taskforce.

Brief Discussion with Mayor Tim Burgess

Mayor Tim Burgess briefly joined the CPC meeting to meet with commissioners per his request. The CPC and Mayor Burgess discussed the following:

- The need for public acknowledgment of the CPC's 2014 recommendation to study secondary employment;
- The Crisis Intervention Committee and the need to empower community members to direct the committee's agenda;
- An update on labor negotiations; and
- An update on the Consent Decree

Transition Team

Kirstan Arestad and Amy Tsai of Seattle City Council's central staff and Kara Tillotson of the City Budget Office joined the meeting to discuss the upcoming city budget process and to advise the CPC on how to engage in the Council's budget process.

The CPC originally asked for two additional community engagement staff, two additional policy analysts, one communications staff, and a part-time administrative assistant. The Mayor's budget provides for two new staff positions for the CPC—a community engagement supervisor and a policy analyst. The CPC's contracting budget was cut in half, partly to fund these two positions. The Mayor's budget provides for eight total staff at the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) compared to six total staff at the CPC. The budget provides for three complaint navigators at the Office of Police Accountability.

The CPC will advocate for increased staffing so that the commission is able to do the work it promised to do. Staff and commissioners have started meeting with Councilmembers individually regarding the CPC's staffing needs. Staff are working on a proposal of what our professional services budget should be. The CPC also created a call to action for the October 5 public Council hearing on the budget. Commissioners will testify at the hearing. It is imperative for the CPC to receive adequate staffing at the outset, as the budgets that are set this year will be used as a baseline budget for all three accountability entities.

Key dates for the budget process are:

Oct 9: First deadline for proposals

Oct. 12 – 17: Budget deliberations

Oct. 19: Green sheet deadline (Councilmember sponsors must get changes to Council staff by this date.)

Oct. 31: Initial balancing package

Nov. 1: Public hearing

Nov. 2: Deadline for Council to determine changes to the budget

DOJ/Monitor Update

DOJ – The DOJ is working on filing a response to the Monitor’s compliance report by October 13. It is likely that the DOJ will be supporting the City’s motion to declare full and effective compliance with the Consent Decree.

Monitor – The Monitor had no update.

Policy Workgroup

City’s Settlement with Cynthia Whitlatch

On August 30, it was reported that former police officer Cynthia Whitlatch, who was fired in 2015 for biased and overly aggressive policing in the 2014 arrest of an elderly African-American man named William Wingate, reached a settlement agreement with the City and would receive backpay and have her status changed from “terminated” to “retired in lieu of termination” so she can receive her full pension. Per the CPC’s authority to request information on closed cases to review them to identify areas for systemic reform, the commission requested all files related to this case from SPD, OPA, and the City Attorney’s Office so it can review and understand why there was a settlement agreement and identify gaps in the system, in policy and with personnel, that led to this outcome.

The CPC has received documents from OPA. The CPC received a response from the City Attorney’s Office saying they will be responsive to the commission’s request within the next couple of weeks. Staff will follow up on Friday. Throughout October, staff and the Policy Workgroup will review files and will determine next steps during the first Policy Workgroup meeting in November, during which staff and commissioners will also determine an ideal date and time to meet with the City Attorney and Chief of Police to discuss findings and recommendations.

Monitor’s Compliance Report

The CPC entered into an executive session to discuss the monitor’s compliance report and the CPC’s response at 10:56am. The CPC exited executive session at 11:35am and voted to approve the drafting of the CPC’s response to the Monitor’s compliance report based on items discussed during the executive session.

Moved, seconded, and passed (6-0-1): “To approve the drafting of the CPC’s response to the Monitor’s compliance report.”

Action Item – Commissioners and staff to draft the CPC’s response to the Monitor’s compliance report.

Transition Team Update (continued)

OPA Director and Inspector General Search Update

Applications for the OPA Director and Inspector General positions have been received and the search committee is in the process of reviewing applications and scheduling interviews for both positions. The committee received more than 100 applications for each position. The goal is to have consensus candidates in November.

Judge Robart Order Regarding Legislation Implementation

A small group of commissioners and staff met with city officials on the implementation of police accountability legislation. The City is moving forward with implementation with the exception of aspects of the legislation that are subject to bargaining. The City is considering providing notice to Judge Robart that the City will go ahead with implementing a list of items in the accountability legislation.

The CPC has identified areas of legislation that can be implemented and what implementation steps should be. The intention is to share the list with City partners, including SPD, OPA, the Mayor's Office, and the City Attorney's Office. The CPC also conducted an analysis of the legal basis for initiating the implementation of various areas of the legislation. The CPC voted to send the implementation list to City stakeholders and to waive confidentiality on the legal analysis for City partners.

Moved, seconded, and passed (6-0-0): "To approve sending the CPC's list of areas of police accountability legislation that are ready for implementation and steps for implementation to City partners including SPD, OPA, the Mayor's Office, and the City Attorney's Office."

Moved, seconded, and passed (6-0-0): "To approve waiving confidentiality, for City entities and partners in police accountability, on the CPC's legal analysis of police accountability legislation and what can be implemented."

Action Item – Send implementation list and legal analysis to City partners.

Other Business

Public Disclosure Request

The commission was reminded to complete their verification of search forms and submit all documents responsive to public disclosure requests from the month of September.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Action Item – Commissioners and staff to draft the CPC's response to the Monitor's compliance report.

Action Item – Send implementation list and legal analysis to City partners.