

Community Police Commission (CPC)

July 7th, 2021, 9:00am Via
Zoom Conference Call

I. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

II. Attendance

CPC Attendees: La Rond Baker (Co-Chair), Erin Goodman (Co-Chair), Rev. Patricia Hunter, Rev. Harriet Walden, Joseph Seia, Erica Newman, Suzette Dickerson, Alina Santillan, Douglas Wagoner, Prachi Dave, Officer Mark Mullens, Tascha Johnson

CPC Staff: Brandy Grant, Felicia Cross, Nia Franco, Jesse Franz, Luiza Montesanti, Shayleen Morris, Emily Trbovich

III. Review Agenda & Minutes

Action: Motion to approve the 7/7/21 meeting agenda

Moved: Joseph Seia

Seconded: Douglas Wagoner

Approved by voice vote

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

Action: Motion to approve the CPC meeting minutes from 6/16/21

Moved: Rev. Patricia Hunter

Seconded: Suzette Dickerson

Approved by voice vote

Opposed: 0

Abstentions:

IV. Public Comment

Public Comment is welcomed by the CPC. Individual speakers will be provided up to two minutes to comment on items on the meeting agenda.

➤ *Dr. Howard Gale*

➤ *Written Comment by Jeff Siddiqui:*

I regret I will be unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments but We would like to register a strong request for SPD Police training procedures.

As Muslims, we are fearful that SPD officers will get training that could prejudice them towards Muslims and Arabs. Towards that end, we would like to strongly ask SPD to no longer sent officers for training to Israel. Israel is always on a war footing and their attitudes towards Arabs and Muslims are

those of facing an enemy. Whether SPD training in Israel is overtly anti-Muslim or not, the training itself WILL bias them against Muslims and Arabs. This is a matter of great concern to local Arabs and Muslims with respect to their own safety and the safety of their children. Training in Israel is not an irreplaceable necessity, it can easily be replicated through another, non-biasing agency.

We urge you to please cease all plans for Police training in Israel.

Jeff Siddiqui
American Muslims of Puget Sound

➤ *Written comment by Eric Salinger:*

To whom it may concern,

I don't think I'll be able to attend the meeting of the CPC on July 7th, but my understanding is that there's a way to submit comments into the record by e-mail. Please find my comments below.

I recently read this article: "OIG MEMO REVEALS SERIOUS 'DEFICIENCIES' IN OPA PROTEST INVESTIGATION THAT 'CANNOT BE REMEDIED'" in the South Seattle Emerald (<https://southseattleemerald.com/2021/06/30/oig-memo-reveals-serious-deficiencies-in-opa-protest-investigation-that-cannot-be-remedied/>), and I was saddened but not surprised to see this. However, I have some perspective I would like to share. My partner, who is a disabled veteran, attended this protest. They ended up fleeing the police violence during this protest, which they felt was completely unprovoked, with a family with small children. They had the "Fun" experience of teaching the children things they had learned in the military about dealing with chemical agents to get the stuff out of their clothing. I asked, needed, and encouraged my partner, repeatedly, to contact the OPA regarding the conduct they witnessed. Despite their discomfort, they tried not once, not twice, but three different times to reach out to the OPA, both by e-mail and by phone. As far as I can tell, despite being at the protests and an eye-witness, they were never contacted.

I cannot claim that I believe it would have mattered, however. The OPA has a track record of excusing any police violence in two categories: 1) Violence in any incident that results in an arrest. Even if the situation only warranted an arrest because of a reaction to police escalation, OPA repeatedly exonerates any level of force used to affect an arrest, especially so during protests. 2) "Unexpected" Consequences of use of force. When a SPD officer maced a 7 year old child, OPA found the officer not responsible for deploying mace into a crowd and hitting someone other than the intended target. OPA found an officer who threw a blast ball into a homeless person's face "not responsible" because the officer didn't know that the homeless person was there. OPA exonerated an officer who caused permanent damage to a reporter by throwing a blast ball because the officer didn't know the person was there. If a SPD officer discharges their firearm and accidentally strikes someone, would OPA exonerate the officer too?

I genuinely do not know what else to say. I have no faith in the consent decree or the Court Monitor to fix a problem. I have no faith in the OPA. I have faith in OIG and CPC to say the right things but be unable to create any meaningful impact. My best suggestion, honestly, is that y'all resign, because you are lending legitimacy to a court mandated process which does not produce anything resembling an equitable outcome.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Eric Salinger

V. Department Updates

- **City Council:** Public Safety and Human Services Committee meets next Tuesday and will be discussing the semi-annual update from CPC and OIG. Also, the discussion on the council's proposed crowd management policy.
- **Mayor's Office:** No Update
- **Monitoring Team:** On 6/21 we met with DOJ to discuss SPD data and methodology to handle various aspects of their requirements under the consent decree. On 6/23 I attended the SPD African American Advisory Council meeting. The Deputy Mayor gave a presentation on the city's plan to address the \$100 million investment allocation for BIPOC investments. Also went over the process to apply for these. There is an upcoming Status Conference for July 27th. To the best of my knowledge it will be in person and the CPC should be on the distribution list. I do not have more information on whether or not the date will be changed.
- **Office of Inspector General (OIG):** No update.
- **Department of Justice (DOJ):** We are working on interviewing and retaining experts to assist us in the review of uses of force that took place last summer.
- **Office of Police Accountability (OPA):** We will be releasing the findings from the officers involved in the July 6th insurrection at the capitol tomorrow.

VI. Community Police Commission Updates

1. Co-Chair Update

2. Mayoral Candidate Forum

- We are opening up to commissioners who have any more comments on the mayoral candidate forum idea. We will vote on this.
- I think as a commission, it is not our place to host this event. If we were going to spend our time doing something, why not educate the public about our contract.
- We do have staff capacity for this. It is not either or, we can do the forum and the other work that needs to get done. Our goal is to ensure that the community has the most information possible when it comes to policing and public safety. Having a forum for mayoral candidates to talk about these platforms to the public does serve this goal.
- The mayor's office is an important decision maker in the work that the CPC does. I would lean towards having this candidate forum.
- Can we clear up if we can legally have the ability to host this, as we have staff and commissioners who work for the county and the city and this does involve politics. **We have confirmed that the discussion, as long as we are not supporting or advocating for any candidate, is legal for the CPC to do.**

Action: Motion to approve a CPC Mayoral Candidate Forum

Moved: Prachi Dave

Seconded: Alina Santillan

Approved by Role Call Vote

Approved: 8

Opposed: 4

3. Strategic Planning Workshop

- Each commissioner should have received a survey from our Connected Realities team for you to fill out.
- There was also a Doodle Poll sent out for our Strategic Planning Workshop. These are two, 4-hour chunks of time. Emily will send the Doodle poll out right now. Please, take a moment and fill this out now.

4. Executive Director Updates

- Project Update: We are in the process of going over OIG Annual Report Review and we are continue to work on our semi-annual Report
- We are also working with Civic Clerk to begin the implementation phase of our board management software
- For our July 21st meeting, we are going to have our CBO com out to give a budget snapshot for the commission
- We are also drafting the first few episodes of the podcast and will be sharing with the commission soon

5. New CPC business

- Ron Ward: I have confirmed the Status Conference is confirmed for 2pm on July 27th

VII. Office of Police Accountability Presentation on Complainant Experience Assessment

1. Purpose and Timeline

- Purpose: To assess the “complainant’s experience” of the OPA complaint process

2. Assessment Components 1-5

- Component 1: Interviews of OPA staff about the complaint process: We interview 12 people and asked the same questions
- Component 2: Evaluation of OPA’s correspondence with complainants
- CPC Feedback mentioned: increasing clarity around OPA processes, reducing using of jargon and acronyms, provide more resources/information, eliminate language that could be viewed as dismissive, and add reasoning behind requests for information
- Component 3: Evaluation of peer agencies correspondence with complainants
- Component 4: Interviews of past complainants about the complaint process
- Component 5: Online Survey of Past Complainants About Complainant Process

3. Recommendations and Next Steps

- Rewrite all correspondence/form letters
- Integrate visuals into form letters to increase accessibility
- Increase communication touchpoints throughout investigation process
- Revamp complaint tracker to address usability

VIII. Complainant Experience Assessment Review Q&A

- I wanted to say thank you for this report. We worked really hard to be a part of the process you all were doing. Thank you for referencing the 2017 accountability ordinance

IX. Discussion regarding City Council's Proposed Revised Crowd Management Policies

1. Crowd Management Policy Presentation

- This ordinance adds in a definition for crowd control as well as adding in clarifications of the types of less lethal weapons that are covered under the ordinance
- They have added in a definition of a "violent public disturbance"
- They have also added in details on when less lethal weapons can not be used and when an individual harmed by use of a less-lethal weapon can seek action against the city
- Last year the CPC made 9 recommendations based on the previous crowd control policy. Two of the nine recommendations were implemented in the new legislation

2. Discussion

- We have had a request for a letter in support for the revised policies from CM Herbold's Office. While we acknowledge it does not meet all of our recommendations, it does take a step forward.
- We'd like to see how people feel about providing support.
- This ordinance is a substantial improvement, and I would support this letter as long as we highlight the other recommendations that we requested that have not been met
- I agree that we should send the letter. The city is going to be more closely aligned with the state as well.
- Is violence defined in the proposed legislation? They do give a definition of a violent public disturbance, but this is more about the number of people.
- I would support a qualified letter, but I would say we should call out all of the recommendations that are not moving forward.

Action: Motion to send a letter in support of City Council's Proposed Revised Crowd Management Policies

Moved: Reverend Harriet Walden

Seconded: Reverend Patricia Hunter

Approved by Voice Vote

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

X. Executive Session

XI. Meeting Adjourned