

Community Police Commission (CPC)

June 7th, 2023, 9:00am In-Person & Via Zoom Conference Call

I. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

II. Take Attendance

CPC Attendees: Rev. Patricia Hunter, Adrien Leavitt, Lynne Wilson, Raven Nicole Tyler, Rev. Harriett Walden, Joel Merkel, Alina Santillan, Tony Gaedcke, Jeremy Wood, Tascha Johnson, Erica Newman, Mark Mullens (late), Le'Jayah Washington (late), Tascha Johnson (late), Mary Ruffin (late), Suzette Dickerson (late)

CPC Absences: Joseph Seia, Lars Erickson (excused absence)

CPC Staff: Cali Ellis, Felicia Cross, Megan Clark, Kiesha Cannon, Mina Barahimi Martin, Mergitu Argo, Jo-Nathan Thomas, Jessica Phares

Reverend Hunter made remarks for the public record about the observers that confronted commissioners after the meeting that occurred on 5/17/23, and how there was a concern for safety of commissioners. Rev. Hunter left space for commissioners who were in the room at the time to share their thoughts.

III. Review Agenda & Minutes

Action: Motion to approve the 6/07/23 meeting agenda, with amendments for two executive sessions

Moved: Rev. Walden (stepped away from the chair)

Seconded: Commissioner Washington

Approved by voice vote.

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

Action: Motion to approve the minutes from 5/17/23

Moved: Commissioner Gaedcke

Seconded: Commissioner Tyler

Approved by voice vote.

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

IV. Community Police Commission Updates

➤ Co-Chair Updates

1. Gave update on court hearing on the consent decree that happened the week before. The CPC asked Judge Robart to end the consent decree with a transition agreement with two focuses being 1) police accountability and 2) use of force and crowd control. The meeting seemed encouraging, especially when the judge asked the City about how they intended to comply with accountability especially when they're undergoing negotiations with SPOG right now. The last contract undermined the accountability provisions for other oversight agencies, and so the judge seemed interested in knowing how the City will consider this issue moving forward. *The Judge took the matter under advisement, and will be looking for his written ruling.* The judge shared his observation that the CPC is an effective and productive organization, especially recently.
2. Commissioner Santillan is resigning from his position with the CPC.
3. Welcome Adrien Leavitt, the CPC's new commissioner!

➤ Executive Director Updates

1. Cali briefly discussed how the ordinance bounds the work of the CPC, and that it's important to understand that language to better understand the work that the CPC does.
2. Cali discussed that the bi-laws do discuss the attendance requirements for workgroup meetings. The expectation is that the staff supports the commissioner's work in creating policy and advising what the CPC does.

➤ Commissioner's Workgroup Updates

1. **Complainant Appeals:** Continued to meet with OPA and how they've assessed the need for reformed appeals process and how they've engaged with the community so far. Have had internal conversations about how to engage with the community and have discussed possibly having an educational video series about the current complainant appeals process. Briefly talked about other projects they're currently working on.

Rev. Hunter briefly changed agenda to let OPA Director Gino Betts to talk because he had to leave early.

2. Community Engagement

1. No update.

3. Police Practices

1. Workgroup is continuing to learn more about the BolaWrap, and at the last meeting had representatives from SPD come so they could answer their questions specifically about the BolaWrap success rate, the new interim policy, and success rate. Thinking about working with community engagement to share more information to the community on BolaWrap and possibly send a letter to SPD to ask more questions.

4. Behavioral Health

1. Talked about a possible implementation for a dual response program that will change the way that 911 is dispatched to crisis situations. Had a presentation by a sergeant by SPD from the crisis response unit team. An overview of the program was given on some parts of how this program works. A question was raised about where this was happening, because it's not happening in every precinct. It seems like this program is very small, and it's not with all officers, just a select few.

➤ **Staff Department Updates**

1. Community Engagement Staff Update

1. Highlighted Mergitu Argo who won an award with the Southeast Peace Coalition. Felicia and Jo-Nathan gave updates on the different departments and organizations that they're collaborating with and the projects that they're working on. It is confirmed that CPC will get an intern from the Seattle Youth Employment Program, and it will be an opportunity for them to learn more about community engagement. The team mentioned that the CPC has updates on the website, and they are highlighting the work that they do up there.

2. Policy Workgroup Staff Update

1. No update.

➤ **New Business**

1. No new business.

V. Presentation by Office of Police Accountability Director Gino Betts, Jr.

- Director Gino Betts was invited to give updates on OPA's work, and to talk about some projects that they're working on.

1. Briefly gave overview of OPA, and the workload that they've had over the past year. Has two goals for this year: 1) raise awareness of OPA specifically in BIPOC communities, 2) increase public's confidence in OPA. Talked about how OPA has contracted with a local research firm to better understand why certain demographics – specifically black male youth and indigenous

people – are not submitting more complaints with OPA even though they disproportionately have more contacts with police. He talked about the work that the community engagement team is doing to engage the community.

2. The department is also working with complainants' experience with OPA. Mentioned that complainants experience previously was too impersonal. Talked about several roles they've hired and projects they've started to close this gap and make the experience more personal in order to increase transparency.
3. Overall positive feedback from CPC commissioners in what OPA is doing. Director Betts also answered some general questions that the commissioners asked on the technical details of OPA's work.

VI. Commission went into executive session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.010 1G.

VII. Department Updates

➤ **City Council**

1. Newell Aldrich from Councilmember Herbold's office gave update. Shared that the upcoming meeting on June 13th in the Public Safety and Human Services Committee will have their first presentation and hearing on the CPC's proposal to amend the 2017 Police Accountability Ordinance. They are working with the co-chairs on scheduling a second hearing.

➤ **Mayor's Office**

1. No update

➤ **Monitoring Team**

1. No update

➤ **Department of Justice (DOJ)**

1. No update

➤ **Office of Inspector General (OIG)**

1. No update, but mentioned that OIG and CPC have increased collaboration over the past few months, which has been very important.

➤ **Seattle Police Department (SPD)**

1. Brian Maxey shared that he went to the NYU policing project in DC the week before, and he learned more about successful alternative response models to see what makes them work and what national trends are showing. Talked about how it's a problem that officers don't know more about the crisis response team and how it works. They've been trying to expand the program, but it's been underfunded.

VIII. Executive Director Search

- Pam Inch gave the update for this agenda item. She said that they had a robust response to the application. Talked about the demographic mix of applicants, and now the position is closed to applicants. She shared her process for evaluating the qualifications of the applicants. She also talked about the schedule for evaluating candidates, and what the timeline looks like for discussions with the commission and decision making. The timeline suggests that the process will end by September. They have had 67 applicants for the ED position, and 16 were deemed qualified. Joel entertained a motion to authorize the co-chairs to proceed to the next step of the ED hiring process to include preliminary interviews with the candidates.
- **Moved:** Commissioner Gaedcke
- **Seconded:** Commissioner Levitt
- **Approved through unanimous vote.**

IX. Commission went into executive session to evaluate the qualification for the applicants.

X. Adjourn