

# Community Police Commission (CPC)

March 1st, 2023, 9:00am Via

Zoom Conference Call

- I. **Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**
- II. **Attendance**

**CPC Attendees:** Rev. Patricia Hunter, Rev. Harriett Walden, Joel Merkel, Alina Santillan, Mark Mullens, Suzette Dickerson, Tascha Johnson, Erica Newman, Le'Jayah Washington, Jeremy Wood, Mary Ruffin

**CPC Absences:** Asha Mohamed, Joseph Seia

**CPC Staff:** Cali Ellis, Felicia Cross, Megan Clark, Mina Martin, Jo-Nathan Thomas, Logan Rysemus

## III. **Review Agenda & Minutes**

**Action:** Motion to approve the 03/01/23 meeting agenda

**Moved:** Rev. Patricia Hunter

**Seconded:** Mary Ruffin

**Approved by voice vote.**

**Opposed:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Action:** Motion to approve the minutes from 02/15/23

**Moved:** Rev. Patricia Hunter

**Seconded:** Tascha Johnson

**Approved by voice vote.**

**Opposed:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

## ➤ **Action items Review**

## IV. **Youth Discussion**

- Guests from the University of Washington and Choose 180 shared experiences with policing in Seattle, and perceptions about public safety in the area.
- Leigh Howard, Garfield High School student and Choose 180 member, spoke about police in schools sharing information about cases with her. This resulted in students feeling uncomfortable.
- Izzy Eads, Youth and Young-Adult Advocacy Program Manager with Choose 180, shared how Choose 180 engages with young people and the impacts they see the criminal legal system and police have on their members.
- Commissioner Tascha Johnson, also the Interim ED of Choose 180, talked about how their org is partnering with Burien PD to develop alternative

responses to community. Feedback Choose 180 receives from their program participants is consistently reporting poor interactions with law enforcement and legal systems. Choose 180 is working with legal systems and police departments to begin seeing all youth as possibilities to be developed and invested in and not problems to be solved.

- ASUW President, Timothy Billing, presented public safety issues that UW students are experiencing. A main issue is jurisdictional issues between UWPD and SPD. Some areas of campus have overlapping jurisdiction and issues with dispatch have been experienced. Sometimes UWPD will transfer calls to SPD, and vice versa, leaving students without police response. Timothy also highlighted communication issues between the departments that leave some areas without crime and safety notifications.
- Timothy highlighted the desire for unarmed security on the UW campus, but police contracts and police unions have inhibited unarmed security believing these professionals take away jobs from traditional police. UW students don't feel SPD takes property crime seriously.
- UW students want UWPD and SPD to acknowledge the history of police brutality and it's continued harm on marginalized communities in the Greater Seattle Area.
- Things UW students would like to see: (1) annual meetings regarding jurisdiction with UWPD, (2) Advocacy to ensure Mental Health Professionals are leading calls related to individuals facing Mental and Behavioral Health Challenges, (3) Crime victim fund for SPD and UWPD, (4) Increased measures of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- Discussion surrounding police training, with a focus on implicit bias training. Izzy Eads highlighted that the institution and structure of policing is inherently biased, and structural changes are needed to address root causes that implicit bias training does not address. Additionally, data presented at the 2022 NACOLE (National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) Conference shows that the most effective training at reducing police violence is de-escalation training. Implicit bias training does is a good starting point, but continued investments in implicit bias training do not have the intended outcomes that de-escalation training does.

## **V. Community Police Commission Updates**

- Executive Director Updates: Interim ED, Dr. Cali Ellis, gave remarks regarding the 10-year anniversary of the consent decree. The CPC is charged with amplifying the voices of all communities, and engaging communities to develop recommendations to better policing in Seattle. Crimes rates in Seattle are rising and communities are at higher risk of danger. Constitutional policing is critical to keeping Seattleites safe.
- Co-Chair Updates: Commissioner Joel Merkel read remarks on behalf of Commissioner Rev. Patricia Hunter regarding support for Dr. Ellis and her willingness to take lead of the CPC. Rev. Harriett Walden echoed the remarks and praised Dr. Ellis for her work.
- Commissioner Merkel shared multiple people have expressed interest in joining

the CPC. Interviews have been scheduled and new commissioner might be joining soon.

➤ Workgroup Updates / Staff Department Updates:

- State Legislative Agenda: updates on session and various procedural cutoff dates that have passed or upcoming. Commissioner Wood shared updates on amendments to traffic safety bill.
- Staff updates: welcoming new staff – Mina Martin, Senior Policy Advisor, and Jo-Nathan Thomas, Community Engagement Specialist.

➤ New Business: NA

**VI. Department Updates:**

- City Council: Newell Aldrich shared updates from the Public Safety and Human Services Committee. The PSHS committee heard updates regarding the executive and legislative workgroup developing programs for police alternative responses.
- Office of Police Accountability: hiring new staff, Communications Manager and Policy Manager. Reviewing internal processes and updating engagement/notification processes for community members.
- Office of the Inspector General: wrapping up a few audits and finishing up the wave 4 SER panel. Hiring new positions as well.
- Mayor's Office: NA
- Monitoring Team: continuing to work on accountability assessment and engaging with accountability partners. Team is also working with other city partners to draft initial plans for a transition agreement for the future of the consent decree.
- Department of Justice: No updates.
- Seattle Police Department: congratulated CPC new hires and position changes. Echoed condolences for Malik Davis' family regarding his untimely passing.

**VII. Meeting Adjourned**