

## **Community Police Commission – Bi-monthly Meeting**

**October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9:00am -10:30am**

### **In-Person & Via WebEx Conference Call**

- I. Welcome**
- II. Land Acknowledgement**
- III. Take Attendance**

**CPC Attendees:** Joel Merkel, Lars Erickson, Rev. Patricia Hunter, Rev. Harriett Walden, Lynne Wilson, Mary Ruffin, Tascha Johnson, Mark Mullens, Erica Newman, Anthony Gaedcke, Suzette Dickerson, Le’Jayah Washington

**CPC Absences:** Adrien Levitt (excused), Raven Tyler (excused), Jeremy Wood

**CPC Staff:** Cali Ellis, Felicia Cross, Jo-Nathan Thomas, Mergitu Argo, Jessica Phares

#### **IV. Approve Draft agenda for 10/4/23 meeting and minutes from 9/20/23 meeting**

**Action:** Motion to approve Draft agenda for 10/4/23

**Moved:** Yes

**Seconded:** Yes

**Approved by voice vote.**

**Opposed:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Action:** Motion to approve the minutes from 9/20/23 as corrected.

**Moved:** Yes

**Seconded:** Yes

**Approved by voice vote.**

**Opposed:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

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

##### **➤ Co-Chair Updates**

- The Seattle City Council recently held a hearing to assess the nomination of Philip Sanchez as the newest CPC Commissioner. Sanchez is expected to represent both the Mexican American and Asian American communities, with a background in the criminal justice system and working with marginalized communities. Approval anticipated at the upcoming meeting.
- The mayor's budget includes full funding for a Deputy Director position within the CPC staff, a crucial development to strengthen the organization's stability and independence. This funding will help the CPC move forward.
- An update was provided on the Detective Auderer situation, where SPD has made changes, such as assigning Detective Auderer to a non-patrol desk role.

However, contractual interpretations may limit further action, particularly concerning unpaid leave.

- The City Council discussed a resolution regarding the SPMA contract negotiations, showing their support for priorities outlined by the CPC, OPA, and OIG. This is a significant step towards shaping the next SPMA contract.
- Councilmember Lisa Herbold offered positive remarks during To Philip Sanchez's confirmation hearing, acknowledging the CPC's role in policy development and community engagement. Her comments highlighted the synergy between these efforts and the value the CPC brings to the policymaking process. The remarks were recorded and are accessible for review.

➤ **Executive Director Updates**

- The Executive Director mentioned the anticipation of hiring a Deputy Director, with the process set to begin next year after the budget process. This hiring is seen as a significant step in enhancing the CPC's operational capacity.
- The CPC is currently in the final stages of hiring a Senior Policy Analyst, and final interviews are scheduled for later in the week. The presence of strong candidates in the applicant pool is noted, which bodes well for the CPC's policy analysis capabilities.
- The next step in the hiring process will involve recruiting a Communications Advisor. This move is part of an effort to expand the CPC's staff to eventually have 10 FTE positions. It demonstrates a commitment to improving the CPC's communication and outreach abilities.

➤ **Community Engagement Updates**

- The Community Engagement team is actively involved in preparations for the Annual Report meeting and has been participating in various conferences, furthering their community engagement efforts.
- Felicia Cross's notable attendance at the National Police Academy Association conference in Virginia was acknowledged, where she delivered a successful presentation. The board of directors honored her for her impactful contribution.
- Collaboration with key organizations, including meetings with the Regional President of the NAACP, Chris Shoe, to discuss Youth Violence Prevention and avenues for collaboration in areas like community policing, data analysis, and policy development.
- Collaborative efforts with organizations like the United Way and the Boys and Girls Club, demonstrating the power of consistency in building relationships and trust. These organizations have expressed their desire to collaborate more closely with the CPC.
- Monthly meetings with batch colleagues to provide policy insights and business perspectives to young officers in collaboration with SPD.

- Jo-Nathan's experience at the National Black MBA Association conference, emphasizing the importance of building relationships and trust in community policing and sharing a positive interaction with officers.
- Active participation in community events and meetings, including the African American Advisory meeting, which featured discussions on union issues and leadership that were recognized in the news.
- Plans for future cohesion and collaboration as the team continues to expand and enhance community engagement efforts.
- Reminders of upcoming events and meetings, including the North PAC meeting and a partnership with the Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) for their 50th Gala event (Saturday, 6PM – 9 PM).
- Acknowledgment of Jo-Nathan for adding community events to the seattle.gov calendar, facilitating commissioner involvement in these events.
- Positive encounters between commissioners and community members, highlighting the importance of building connections and trust in community policing.

➤ **Staff Department Updates**

- No new updates

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- No new business.

**VI. Presentation by Mr. Brian Maxey (SPD) on Truleo**

- Mr. Brian Maxey, representing the Seattle Police Department (SPD), presented an overview of the Truleo program. Truleo is a company that specializes in artificial intelligence and services related to it. The program's purpose was to review body-worn camera footage and analyze it for various purposes.

**Timeline of Events:**

- In March 2021, SPD entered into a partnership with Green Key, a company developing the Truleo software. The partnership aimed to validate the system's ability to analyze audio from body-worn cameras.
- In October 2021, SPD presented the Equity Accountability and Quality (EAQ) program to the City Council, seeking funding for data analytics projects.
- The EAQ program had three components: Equity, Accountability, and Quality. Truleo was intended for the Quality component to assess how SPD interacted with the community.
- Unfortunately, the City Council did not fund the EAQ program in November 2021.
- In November 2021, SPD purchased Truleo through an Amazon private marketplace. It connected this software with the department's body-worn camera system in January 2022.

- In late July 2022, SPD began testing the Truleo system with actual body-worn camera footage to validate its performance.

#### **How Truleo Works:**

- Truleo analyzes body-worn camera audio by transcribing it into text, with no capacity to detect voice inflection or emotions.
- It uses machine learning, not artificial intelligence, and relies on humans to verify and educate the system.
- Speaker diarization is used to identify who is speaking in the recorded audio.

#### **Events Leading to Contract Termination:**

- On January 30, 2023, Axios published an article suggesting that SPD had been using the Truleo system since 2021. This misinformation led to widespread anger and speculation among SPD employees.
- On February 3, 2023, GeekWire published a similar article, further heightening concerns about Truleo's use.
- The misinformation in these articles and the subsequent backlash from SPD employees, who felt that they had been spied on, prompted SPD leadership to terminate the Truleo contract on February 7, 2023. The termination was unrelated to the subsequent incident involving Detective Auderer's video.

#### **Officer Auderer's Video:**

- SPD leadership was not aware of Detective Auderer's statements in his video from January 2023 until August 1, 2023, when a public disclosure officer discovered it.
- SPD promptly referred the video to the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) for investigation.
- The decision to terminate the Truleo contract was influenced by SPD employees' strong negative reaction to media coverage and speculation about the program.

#### **Questions Raised:**

- Commissioner Gaedcke inquired about the reason for the termination of the Truleo contract and the process surrounding it.
- Commissioner Mullens questioned the lack of testing and pilot programs before implementing Truleo.
- Commissioner Johnson inquired about the data analysis and whether SPD achieved the 85% accuracy goal.

#### **Relevant Information:**

- SPD emphasized that Truleo was never used operationally; it was still in the validation phase when the contract was terminated.
- SPD acknowledged that communication and messaging about the program to SPD employees was insufficient, leading to a backlash.

#### **Future Considerations:**

- SPD did not rule out the possibility of reacquiring technology similar to Truleo in the future. However, they emphasized the need for a more deliberate and cautious acquisition process.
  - The contract between the city attorney's office and Truleo is under discussion regarding its termination.
- Overall, Mr. Maxey clarified SPD's intentions with Truleo and provided context about the termination of the contract, emphasizing the importance of accurate information and open communication within the department.

## **VII. Presentation by Commissioner Lynne Wilson on Crisis Intervention Training Class**

- Commissioner Lynne Wilson presented her experiences and insights from attending a Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) class. The CIT class provides training for police officers, mental health professionals, and other responders to handle crisis situations involving individuals with mental health issues.
- Commissioner Wilson provided an overview of the CIT class, which involves intensive training lasting 40 hours at the Criminal Justice Training Center. This training is attended by various professionals who deal with crisis situations.

The training covered several key topics:

- A three-hour presentation on mental health disorders, medications, substance use disorders, and verbal tactics for handling crisis situations.
- An hour-long presentation which focuses on individuals recovering from addiction and supporting their recovery.
- A three to four-hour session on use of force considerations in crisis situations.
- Commissioner Wilson emphasized the importance of understanding the various mental health disorders, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and the impact of long-term untreated depression. The training included simulations to help participants experience the challenges faced by individuals with psychotic disorders.
- The training had about 25 participants, with a portion being call responders, including mental health professionals. These responders have substantial experience working with police departments.
- A recovering heroin addict shared her personal story, including past criminal activities. Her story highlighted the significance of recovery programs.
- Commissioner Wilson discussed the challenges responders face, such as dealing with individuals who cannot comprehend instructions due to severe mental distress. She also mentioned issues related to involuntary treatment, lack of available beds for psychiatric patients, and the overwhelming caseload of emergency rooms.
- Most officers attending the training had extensive experience. They require a designated crisis responder's approval to detain individuals in psychiatric distress. However, the limited number of psychiatric beds and issues at emergency rooms often result in individuals being released back onto the streets.

- The second day of training focused on de-escalation, active listening, and training on working with dispatch and call takers. This was presented by experienced professionals who deal with crisis intervention.
- Commissioner Wilson highly recommended attending the CIT training, as it provides valuable insights into the challenges faced by responders in crisis situations. The training promotes a deeper understanding of mental health disorders and crisis intervention.
- The training sessions are conducted approximately once a month. The November training date was not available at the time of the presentation, but Commissioner Wilson offered to share the dates as soon as they were scheduled.
- The Criminal Justice Training Center was appreciative of Commissioner Wilson's participation and interested in continuing collaboration with external participants.

## **VIII. Department Updates**

- City Council
  - Councilmember Herbold's representative, Newell Aldrich, provided an update by email on behalf of the City Council. The Council is currently holding budget meetings to review the Mayor's proposed 2024 budget, which was released last week.
  - The Budget Committee has scheduled meetings for the upcoming week and will also hold a public hearing on October 18. The detailed schedule for the Council's agenda can be found on the Council's website.
- Mayor's Office
  - No representative from the Mayor's Office was present to provide an update during the meeting.
- Monitoring Team
  - No update was provided by the Monitoring Team during the meeting.
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
  - Mr. Waldrop from the DOJ mentioned that there were no updates from the department at that time.
- Office of Police Accountability (OPA)
  - It was noted that OPA was not available to provide an update during the meeting.
- Office of Inspector General (OIG)
  - A representative from the Office of Inspector General mentioned that they have been working on surveillance audits and are in the process of wrapping them up for the year. They also mentioned an upcoming traffic stats roundtable that some individuals from CPC will be attending.
- Seattle Police Department
  - No representative from SPD was present to provide an update during the meeting.

*Next meeting: The meeting concluded, and the next meeting was scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

IX. **Adjourn**