

# Seattle Community Police Commission



OUR CITY. OUR SAFETY. OUR POLICE. BETTER TOGETHER.

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## **Seattle CPC Co-chair's statement on City's request for an extension in Consent Decree case**

*The following statement is attributable to the CPC Co-chairs Isaac Ruiz, Rev. Harriett Walden, and Emma Cataque:*

The Court ordered the City and Department of Justice to work with the Community Police Commission (CPC) and the Monitoring Team to find a way to fix the accountability issues in the police contracts by July 15th.

Five days before the deadline, the City has not yet held any meetings with all of the stakeholders mentioned by the judge.

The City's filing should be considered in light of the following facts:

1. From 2013 forward, the participants in the federal court consent decree process—in partnership with many community groups—engaged in a multi-year effort to assess Seattle's accountability system and recommend reforms, culminating in the passage of the 2017 accountability ordinance.
2. Earlier this year, the CPC prepared and filed extensive documentation relating to ways in which the police contracts departed from the reforms. Judge Robart sided with the position taken by the CPC. Judge Robart's order did not mention hiring outside consultants.
3. The City did not ask the CPC for its position before deciding to hire the outside consultants.
4. There is extensive expertise within the City, DOJ, Monitor Team, and CPC that can and should be leveraged to come up with a plan to bring the City back into compliance with the consent decree.

While the CPC hasn't taken an official position and won't be able to until we meet on July 17, the CPC has heard significant concerns from community groups about this process—including concerns about what the hiring of outside consultants will mean to years' long work on this subject that has already been done. Those concerns are not falling on deaf ears.

The CPC has invited the out-of-state consultants to our next full CPC meeting next week. We look forward to the discussion.

There is important work to be done to reform the accountability provisions of the contracts and the other identified weaknesses in Seattle's police accountability system.

- CPC Co-Chairs Rev. Harriett Walden, Isaac Ruiz, and Emma Catague

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