Seattle Community Police Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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Statement from the Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) on the Audit of Seattle's Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC)

Today, the Mayor's Office released an audit of Seattle's Real-Time Crime Center ("RTCC"). Started in 2025, the RTCC is a surveillance and data hub that allows the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to access a network of cameras including both city and privately owned cameras. The audit, conducted by Policing Project at NYU Law (Policing Project), focused on potential risks to civil rights and privacy and to identify policy gaps and recommendations.

After reviewing documents, conducting site visits, and meeting with community groups, the Seattle Police Department, and city staff, the Policing Project made **19 recommendations** to address governance and policy gaps in the use of surveillance technology in Seattle.

These recommendations seek to mitigate the risks of surveillance, specifically regarding civil rights and privacy. The audit echoes many of the same concerns raised by the CPC's Police Practices Workgroup in September 2025, when it asked the City to delay expansion until it completed a review of the risks and benefits.

The audit highlights the real risk that data gathered by SPD through the RTCC could be disclosed to anyone or any agency seeking it through Washington's Public Record Act, and through other formal means. It also raises questions about surveillance of the public and the collection of information that can be shared with third parties threatening civil rights and individual privacy. Information about a person's movements can reveal deeply personal information, including their familial, political, professional, religious, and sexual associations.

Three key recommendations in the report:

- Require warrants for retrospective tracking
- Reduce data retention to address privacy concerns
- Formalize practices into policy

Seattle community members should be empowered to decide if the risks of the RTCC are worth the public safety benefits. The CPC strongly supports recommendations that elevate community voice and strengthen transparency, oversight, and accountability, and supports formalizing practices into policies to ensure surveillance technologies are governed by clear standards that protect the civil rights and privacy of all those who live, work, and travel through Seattle.

The CPC recognizes the power of community voice in raising the concerns that this audit explores. The CPC calls on Mayor Wilson to ensure meaningful community and CPC participation to address the policy and governance gaps, recognizing that elevating community voice is critical to fostering trust, protecting civil rights, and achieving equitable public safety outcomes. The CPC will continue to push for transparency and adequate time to provide community-led recommendations for thoughtful policy development.

Read the full audit here.

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The Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) is an independent body that amplifies community voices in police reform, accountability, and public safety. The CPC provides community-based oversight of the Seattle Police Department and works to advance policing practices centered on justice, equity, accountability, and public trust.