

Seattle
Community
Police Commission

Our city. Our safety.
Our police. Better together.

Community Police Commission responds to DOJ announcement.

Statement from the Co-Chairs:

Rev Harriett G. Walden
Rev Patricia Hunter
Joel Merkel, Jr.

As part of the Consent Decree in 2012, the City of Seattle and the Department of Justice (DOJ) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which created the Seattle Community Police Commission. We knew then that there were problems with policing in Seattle that were beyond the jurisdiction of a federal judge. While there has been notable progress, after nearly 11 years of federal judicial oversight it is time to return the primary responsibility of police oversight to the community.

The work of ensuring constitutional policing is never over. Police oversight and accountability is at its best when the community, its leaders, and the police department collaborate in a fair and transparent accountability system. There is still much work to do for our elected leaders to ensure that the next SPOG contract lives up to the City's landmark 2017 Accountability Ordinance. We must also elevate mechanisms that meaningfully root out bias and disparity inside SPD and with their interactions with the community.

The Seattle police accountability system established under the 2017 Accountability Ordinance is a leading national model. The Seattle Community Police Commission, along with our accountability partners OPA, OIG, and SPD, stand ready to lead on ensuring that police services in Seattle are rooted in the constitution and center justice, equity, and transparent accountability.