

Seattle
Community
Police Commission

Our City. Our Safety. Our Police. **Better Together.**

Council Briefing

March 10, 2014
Seattle City Council

AGENDA

- About the Seattle Community Police Commission
- Partners in reform
- Creating change
 - The role of community
 - CPC Work in 2014
- Q & A
- Contact information

ABOUT THE CPC: Why was the CPC formed?

A series of serious incidents involving police and people of color, including the 2010 shooting death by Seattle police of First Nations woodcarver John T. Williams, ignited public concern about excessive use of force and bias in the Seattle Police Department (SPD).

After a federal investigation, the City of Seattle signed a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to reform SPD practices.

ABOUT THE CPC:

Why was the CPC formed?

A Settlement Agreement & Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the federal government established a work plan for changing SPD policies and practices.

This legal agreement required the creation of the Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) to provide community input on the reform process.

The CPC was intended, in the words of the Court Monitor, to be “a powerful, independent policymaking body that proceeds carefully based upon evidence and whose conclusions have great integrity and persuasive power.”

ABOUT THE CPC:

Purpose

The CPC is independent. Its purpose is to engage the community and ensure public input to police reform.

- Represents a broad range of community views,
- Researches good policies and practices of other police departments and national experts
- Reviews and proposes changes to SPD policies, data collection, and training materials,
- Actively engages diverse communities on reform,
- Incorporates community ideas into policy, and
- Reports community feedback to key partners in the reform process.

PARTNERS IN REFORM

Community

**Community Police
Commission**

**City of Seattle /
Seattle Police Department**

Federal Court Monitor

**US Department
of Justice**

CREATING CHANGE: The role of community

We need your help to create a stronger, safer and more connected community.

- Successful police reform depends on widespread community input.
- Ongoing community engagement is of paramount importance.
- Community input and dialogue over time will also promote confidence in SPD, strengthen community-police relations, and support the Police Department in ensuring public safety for all.



CREATING CHANGE:

Core values in engaging community

- **Partnership driven**
 - We all own the problem and the solution
- **Meaningful engagement**
 - CPC will be informed by community input
- **Inclusiveness**
 - Engage all stakeholders
- **Accountability and Transparency**
 - Proof that input matters

CREATING CHANGE:

2013 Policy Recommendations

- Bias-Free Policing - The CPC recommendations took into account both individual and institutional bias and the new SPD policy includes CPC's provision for analyzing the disparate impact of institutional practices that may benefit from alternative law enforcement approaches.
- Stops and Detentions - The CPC recommendations focused on making clear when officers may or may not stop, detain and search people and to make clear the rights and obligations of the officer and the stopped individual. The new SPD policy includes these provisions.
- Use of Force - The CPC recommendations focused on simplifying and clarifying the policy. The policy adopted by SPD took into account some of the CPC's recommendations for improvements.
- In-Car Video Recordings - The CPC recommendations sought to ensure that effective and appropriate in-car video technology is in place and that in-car video recording policies and procedures support appropriate officer training and police department accountability.

CREATING CHANGE: CPC Work in 2014

This year, the CPC is charged with making recommendations on the following:

- SPD Accountability
- Preventing Unnecessary Disparities in Law Enforcement
- SPD Training
- SPD Community Outreach

Contact Information

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Website

<http://www.seattle.gov/policecommission/>