



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Public Safety Committee

### Agenda

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall  
600 4th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Robert Kettle, Chair  
Rob Saka, Vice-Chair  
Joy Hollingsworth, Member  
Cathy Moore, Member  
Sara Nelson, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8807; [Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov](mailto:Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov)

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Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566

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**SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Public Safety Committee**  
**Agenda**  
**January 28, 2025 - 9:30 AM**

**Meeting Location:**

Council Chamber, City Hall , 600 4th Avenue , Seattle, WA 98104

**Committee Website:**

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-safety>

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This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Details on how to provide Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>

Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the Public Comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

Pursuant to Council Rule VI.C.10, members of the public providing public comment in Chambers will be broadcast via Seattle Channel.

Please submit written comments to all Councilmembers four hours prior to the meeting at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104.

*Please Note: Times listed are estimated*

**A. Call To Order**

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**C. Public Comment**

**D. Items of Business**

1. [Appt 03066](#) **Appointment of David Benchlouch as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (30 minutes)

**Presenters:** Eci Ameh, Interim Director, and Joel Merkel, Chair, Community Police Commission; Chair Kettle

2. [Appt 03067](#) **Appointment of Arlecier L.N. West as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2026.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (30 minutes)

**Presenters:** Eci Ameh, Interim Director, and Joel Merkel, Chair, Community Police Commission; Chair Kettle

3. [Appt 03068](#) **Reappointment of Joseph Seia as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2025.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (30 minutes)

**Presenters:** Eci Ameh, Interim Director, and Joel Merkel, Chair, Community Police Commission; Chair Kettle

4. [Appt 03069](#) **Reappointment of Joel C. Merkel as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (30 minutes)

**Presenters:** Eci Ameh, Interim Director, and Joel Merkel, Chair, Community Police Commission; Chair Kettle

#### E. Adjournment



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 03066, **Version:** 1

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Appointment of David Benchlouch as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>David Benchlouch</i>		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> <i>Community Police Commission</i>		<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Member</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>	<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/1/2025 <b>to</b> 12/31/2027  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> <i>Seward Park</i>	<b>Zip Code:</b> <i>98118</i>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Background:</b> <i>Rabbi Benchlouch is a synagogue Rabbi and leader in the Sephardic Jewish community of Seattle, and involved in outreach, psychology, and education.</i> <i>With 10 years of rabbinical and psychological experience in USA and South Africa, rabbi Benchlouch has served the greater community, in all sectors of the population.</i> <i>Rabbi David received his rabbinic ordination from the Jerusalem Midrash Sephardi Rabbinical College and holds a masters degree in clinical mental health counseling from Bellevue University.</i>		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b> <i>Robert E Kettle</i>  <b>Date Signed (appointed):</b> 1/10/2025	<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <i>Robert Kettle</i>  <i>Seattle City Councilmember</i>	

\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

RABBI DAVID BENCHLOUCH



**Education**

- 2024: Harvard University Online Course in Organizational Leadership
- 2018-2020: Bellevue University; Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.
- 2012-2016: Yeshivat Midrash Sefaradi; Rabbinical Ordination.
- 2012-2014: Straus-Amiel-Ner Le'Elef; rabbinical training and communal leadership for diaspora emissaries.

**Vocational Experience**

- 2022-Present: Head Rabbi, Congregation Ezra Bessaroth. Seattle, WA
- 2020-2022: Rabbi and Therapist; Yeshivat Lev Aharon, Jerusalem.
- 2015-2020: Rabbi; Sephardi Hebrew Congregation. Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2015-2020: Conversion course instructor under auspices of the United Orthodox Union of South Africa.
- 2014-2015: Rabbi, Bnei Akiva. Jerusalem, Israel

**Certifications & Qualifications**

- Organizational Leadership Certification (Harvard University, Online)
- Dialectic Behavioral Therapy (Psychwire)
- Rabbinical ordination (Midrash Sefaradi, Jerusalem)
- Clinical Psychotherapist (Bellevue University)
- Wedding officiant & pre-marital counselor.
- Gerut (conversion) instructor
- CBT certified for depression and personality disorders, Beck Institute.
- Certified neuro-linguistic practitioner (NLP).
- Certified Youth Counselor; Yedidim Seminar.
- Chazanut & Baal Kore certification; Ashir Oz Institute of Sefardic Music.
- Chazanut certification; Renanot School of Middle Eastern Music

**Languages**

Fluent in English and Hebrew.

# Community Police Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125315, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms however, for initial terms should be as follows:

- 5 City Council-appointed
- 5 Mayor-appointed
- 5 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify): Commission

## Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
6	M		1.	Member	Lars Erickson	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	Mayor
			2.	Member					Mayor
			3.	Member					Mayor
2	F		4.	Member	Arlecier L.N. West	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	M		5.	SPMA Rep	Anthony Gaedcke	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	Mayor
6	M		6.	Member	Joel C. Merkel	1/1/25	12/31/27	2	Council
			7.	Member	Le'Jayah Washington	1/1/22	12/31/24	2	Council
			8.	Member	Tascha Johnson	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	Council
			9.	Member	David Benchlouch	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Council
			10.	Member					Council
2	F		11.	Member	Erica Newman	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	CPC
			12.	Member	Joseph Seia	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	CPC
			13.	Public Defense					CPC
			14.	Civil Liberties					CPC
2	M		15.	SPOG Rep	Mark Mullens	1/1/23	12/31/25	3	CPC

## SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	2	1				1				2			
Council	1									1			
Other	1	1				2							
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>3</b>				<b>3</b>			

## Key:

- \*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)
- \*\*G List *gender*, M= Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, NB= Non-Binary O= Other U= Unknown
- RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

*Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.*





Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 03067, **Version:** 1

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Appointment of Arlecier L.N. West as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2026.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> Arlecier L.N. West		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> Community Police Commission		<b>Position Title:</b> Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> OR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>	<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/1/2024 <b>to</b> 12/31/2026  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b>	<b>Zip Code:</b>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Background:</b> Arlecier West is a Senior Human Resources Business Partner with the King County Council. In this position, she leads recruitments for many policy and police accountability positions staffed within the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight. Arlecier has unique insight to the needs for staffing employees around public safety and community engagement roles. From working with unionized groups and collective bargaining agreements, she has a complex understanding of the work and can help communicate policies in digestible terms. Arlecier is a trained crisis communicator.		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>   <b>Date Signed (appointed):</b> January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b>  Bruce A. Harrell Mayor of Seattle

\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

# ARLECIER L. N. WEST

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**Skills** PHR Certified, Strategic planning, talent acquisition management, performance management, FEMA Crisis Communication certified, organizational communication, detail and customer service oriented, Microsoft Office Suite

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## Work Experience

### ***Senior HR Business Partner***

**9/2022 – Present**

King County Council – Legislative Branch

- Document HR processes and serve as a liaison between workgroups and HR functional areas (benefits, recruitment, training)
- Manage day-to-day project execution with strong project management skills.
- Demonstrate initiative in gathering feedback and data from stakeholders and collaborating with subject matter experts
- Develop key messages and communicate project updates to leadership and manage escalations/exceptions, as needed.
- Facilitate initiatives to develop and improve project management processes, tools, and technology in support of project goals.
- Contribute to global HR continuous improvement initiatives. Leverage existing technology in new and creative ways
- Work in a collaborative manner with HR team to provide uniform interpretation and application of policies, practices, and procedures

### ***Human Resource Analyst***

**3/2021 – 9/2022**

King County – Roads Division

- Coordinate advertisement recruiting projects. Managing budgets and vendor communication, reviewing contracts for accuracy, and developing key messaging for creative design
- Provide on-going performance management support for supervisors and managers on personnel matters. Facilitate crucial conversations coaching and counseling for progressive management
- Provide facilitation during section meetings and Zoom interviews
- Participate in Lean strategic planning meetings for process improvement for the division (recruitment/hiring practices/onboarding/employee recognition & feedback)

# ARLECIER L. N. WEST

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- Provide leave administration for Roads Division. Duties include informing employees of available leave options to creating various letters for leave compliance & administration
- Complete full cycle recruiting in NEOGOV from creating requisitions to candidate selection
- Manage records, conduct reports, draft hiring documents for new employee onboarding
- Position management in HRIS. Creating positions based on recruitment needs. Manage data in PeopleSoft database such as employee transactions and position updates, assist with analytics and metrics reports for auditing
- Assist employees with questions on a host of HR topics. Provide clarification of CBA as well as building positive relationships with outside vendors and stakeholders

## ***Human Resource Associate***

**2018 – 2021**

King County- Facilities Management Division

- Administer human resources office operations such as organizing requests, scheduling meetings, corresponding with applicants and managers, drafting various letters for employees
- Manage records and reports for timely completion, research and compile information for managerial presentation, maintain assignment logs for supervisors, and draft hiring documents for new employee onboarding
- Assist employees with questions on a host of different topics. Provide excellent customer service while building positive relationships with outside vendors and stakeholders
- Manage data in PeopleSoft database such as employee transactions and position updates, resolve complaints such as pay discrepancies, and assist with analytics and metrics reports for auditing
- Recruitment process. Create requisitions and complete full cycle recruiting in NEOGOV

## ***Human Resource Consultant***

**2016 – 2018**

Department of Social & Health Services

- Process personnel actions (appt. change/separation/ HRMS (SAP) system)
- Create reports for periodic increases, insurance eligibility, probationary/trial service completion, etc.

# ARLECIER L. N. WEST

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- Review FMLA paperwork for accuracy and draft designation notices to employees. Process shared leave documents for eligibility and correspond with departments for proper distribution
- Manage confidential employee medical and Affirmative Action files along with background clearance
- Conduct New Employee Orientation and transfer onboarding (I-9/USCIS verification)
- Aid managerial staff with proper hiring procedures, investigations, next step consultation
- Liaison with other state departments (payroll/Health Care Authority) investigating issues with employee benefits and compensation
- Assist management with bargaining comprehension, candidate interviewing, job announcements and other recruitment efforts

## ***Office Manager***

**2015 – 2016**

Department of Social & Health Services

- Provide admin support to hiring managers by conducting interviews, scheduling interviews, and reviewing applicant qualifications
- Coordinate meetings to support HQ and Regional staff
- Develop maintenance improvement plans and monitor vendor assignments
- Manage confidential client information and oversee day-to-day office operations
- Provide assistance to Administrator and staff liaison to outside departments
- Assist with planning office wellness and appreciation celebrations
- Record management and data analysis reports/ EBT coordination
- Research client benefits and navigate multiple database systems for errors

## ***Marketing Associate***

**2014 – 2015**

Pacific Medical Centers

- Coordinate and manage meetings with outside vendors
- Create confidential patient monthly reports that are distributed to providers
- ROI analysis and tracking- Handle tracking of leads from various campaigns for effectiveness. Responsible for follow up and respondent management

# ARLECIER L. N. WEST

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- Event planning- Organize health events for specific groups. Responsible for budget management, flyer design and distribution, vendor procurement, timeline development, presentation and talking points development

## Additional Qualifications

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<b>Education</b> 2013	<b>Washington State University   Pullman, WA</b> BA in Communication- Strategic Communication- Public Relations	<b>Fall 2011 – Fall</b>
	<b>University of Washington   Seattle, WA</b> BA in Sociology-Minor in Diversity Studies	<b>Fall 2004 – Spring 2010</b>

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## Certifications/Interests

- PHR (Professional in Human Resources) HR Certification Institute –July 2018- July 2024
- Certified Crisis Communicator/ IS-29: FEMA Public Information Officer Awareness
- Mental Health First Aid -Youth
- Girl Scouts of America-Asst. Troop Leader (Troop 40015)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.-Seattle Alumnae Chapter -Physical and Mental Health Committee Member
- Life Enrichment Group Mentor
- Pacific Northwest Basketball Officials Association-Ethics and Grievance Committee Member/ Official
- Greater Seattle Volleyball Association Official

# Community Police Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125315, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms however, for initial terms should be as follows:

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- 5 Mayor-appointed
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## Roster:

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2	M		15.	SPOG Rep	Mark Mullens	1/1/23	12/31/25	3	CPC

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*Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.*



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 03068, **Version:** 1

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Reappointment of Joseph Seia as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2025.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.





# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>Joseph Seia</i>		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> <i>Community Police Commission</i>		<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Member</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment	<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>CPC</i>	<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position	
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b>	<b>Zip Code:</b>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Background:</b> <i>Joseph Seia is the Co-Executive Director of Oceania Northwest. Oceania Northwest equips Pacific Islanders and other most impacted communities through leading community health initiatives, creating village healing spaces, and offering meaningful social, educational, legal and economic stabilization support. In Joseph’s last 20 years of professional and community work, Joseph has advocated for those who have lived experience of homelessness, those who experienced hyper incarceration, those who experience marginalization due to their immigration status, and young people who face oppression due to gender and sexual orientation status. Joseph has previously served on the Community Police Commission and brings institutional knowledge and experience with police accountability.</i>		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>  <i>Joel C. Merkel, Jr.</i>  <b>Date Signed (appointed):</b> January 3, 2025		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <i>Joel C. Merkel</i>  <i>Community Police Commission Co-Chair</i>

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# JOSEPH SEIA, MPA

## Education

**BACHELOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SEATTLE UNIVERSITY | SEATTLE WA | 2002-2007**

**MASTER'S IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, SEATTLE UNIVERSITY | SEATTLE WA | 2018-2021**

## Professional Experience

**FOUNDER & CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OCEANIA NORTHWEST**

**BURIEN WA | 2023 – PRESENT**

- Provide excellent administration and oversight over the organization's development and programs serving new Americans, immigrants & refugees and indigenous populations
- Build a coalition of Pasifika leaders to liaise directly with lawmakers and agency leads in creating policies that aligned with the well-being of most impacted communities
- Champion healing justice, cultural belonging and the abolition of poverty through excellent community engagement coordination and facilitation, coalition building and in creating anti-racist learning spaces for community organizers to build power

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, COMMON GOOD, TACOMA WA | 2022 – PRESENT**

- Co-created and formed the Common Good Tacoma coalition to promote healing justice and abolition of poverty work amongst nonprofit leaders and community organizers in Tacoma
- Provide organizational development oversight and leadership in building up the board, formalize mission and vision and raised funds to carry out mission for the two years out
- Provide anti-racist facilitation and instruction to shift culture from the "I" to the "WE"
- Created spaces for collaboration between partners which include philanthropy, homelessness advocates, restorative justice champions, union organizers, youth workers, religious members committed to justice, persons of lived experience, etc

**FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF WA**

**FEDERAL WAY WA | 2019 – 2022**

- Organized and executed creation of board from Pasifika communities to scaffold the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Pasifika-wide serving organization that provides advocacy and social services to Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian communities throughout WA
- Trained and onboarded 30+ Pasifika staff in a two-year span to carry out critical work of mitigating and ending the disparities caused by systemic and social determinants of health
- Raised 6+ million dollars in three years to sustain mission and services through strategic partnerships with funders including government, foundations and private sector

**FOUNDER & CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASIFIKA ORGANIZATIONS**

**FEDERAL WAY WA | 2019 – 2022**

- Created and founded a national Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI) 501c3 coalition of leaders through leading a national council to advance NH/PI interest in US Congress in promoting data sovereignty, political representation, health justice, incarceration rates, etc
- Worked with federal agencies/Congress/White House staff to advance Pasifika autonomy in as a unique race of people with a unique political and racialized experience in the US
- Raised over 8 million dollars to resource 20 new NH/PI organization start-ups in rural states

# JOSEPH SEIA, MPA

## **YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTOR & REI OFFICER, NEW HORIZONS | 2015 – 2019**

- Provided direct administration over youth services programs, staffing the largest youth shelter in the state, and provided professional development training for 40+ staff
- Worked directly with government and private funders to end youth homelessness through co-designing crisis program interventions & executing homelessness prevention strategies
- Centered QTBIPOC youth leadership in advancing culturally rooted and racially competent programming through shared decision-making process with those with lived experience

## **COMMISSIONER, COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION | SEATTLE WA | 2018 – PRESENT**

- Provide civilian leadership over police accountability systems work to lessen the use of deadly force on Black & Indigenous, especially as it impacts Pacific Islander communities
- Advance the work of the Consent Degree and increase civilian leadership in guiding police contracts, law enforcement training requirements, and ensuring other oversight agencies are working together to transform police work in Seattle, King County and in the State

## **CO-CHAIR, UTOPIA SEATTLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS | SEATTLE WA | 2016 – 2022**

- Provided LGBTQIA advocacy work in South King County (SKC) to ensure queer and trans communities in SKC have voice in impacting legislation and policies in SKC cities
- Provided training to community partners on Indigenous gender identities to advance the well-being of Indigenous queer & trans community members
- Facilitated retreats and trainings in antiracist organizing principles and practices

## **COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE NORTHWEST | SEATTLE WA | 2009 – 2013**

- Coordinated Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) to equip antiracist youth leaders in working against racist structures that disproportionately harm Black and Indigenous families
- Served as a resource trainer in UIR trainings for the past 10 years to strengthen anti-racism work in the Pacific Northwest as a part of the anti-racist network

## **HOUSING SPECIALIST, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES | SEATTLE WA | JUNE 2014 – 2015**

- Provided housing advocacy and executed referrals to King County Housing programs
- Coordinated housing assessment efforts across youth homelessness orgs and ensured equitable access for youth in South King County

## **YOUTH CASE MANAGER/COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, SWYFS | SEATTLE WA | 2008-2011**

- Served through the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative working with youth with violent offenses involved in multiple systems centering the well-being of the youth clients
- Conducted service plans, and enrolled youth participants in mental health and behavioral health supports to strengthen their resolve and increase their tools to survive and thrive

## **CULTURAL CENTER COORDINATOR – SSCC OFFICE OF DIVERSITY | SEATTLE WA | 2005-2008**

- Advocated on behalf of students with the college administration for racially inclusive, gender affirming and LGBTQIA inclusive curriculum
- Offered employment and supervised students from diverse communities with a focus on leadership development, event coordination and implementation of racial equity initiatives

# Community Police Commission

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			13.	Public Defense					CPC
			14.	Civil Liberties					CPC
2	M		15.	SPOG Rep	Mark Mullens	1/1/23	12/31/25	3	CPC

## SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	2	1				1				2			
Council	1									1			
Other	1	1				2							
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>3</b>				<b>3</b>			

## Key:

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Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 03069, **Version:** 1

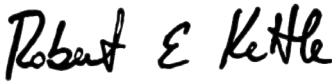
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Reappointment of Joel C. Merkel as member, Community Police Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> Joel C. Merkel		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> Community Police Commission		<b>Position Title:</b> Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		<b>City Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>		<b>Term of Position: *</b> 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2027  <input type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b> Ballard	<b>Zip Code:</b> 98102	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Background:</b> Joel Merkel has over 14 years of public service working in the U.S. Senate and the King County Prosecutor's Office. He served as Legislative Counsel for U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, carrying out oversight over multiple federal agencies. He coordinated with the White House, other Congressional offices and constituent groups in carrying out this oversight, which included complex investigations into the causes and impacts of the 2008 financial market crisis and development of policy and legislative responses, including drafting and negotiating sections of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law.  In the King County Prosecutor's Office, he has tried dozens of domestic violence and sexual assault cases, working with victims, many of whom come from diverse and marginalized communities and often struggle with being thrust into the criminal legal system. He served on an office-wide Equity Action Workgroup to develop internal recommendations on criminal justice reform and racial equity.  He utilized his policy background from work in the U.S. Senate to spearhead and lead an effort at the state legislature to expand drug treatment sentencing alternatives to incarceration for non-violent crimes in the state legislature, helping to draft the bill, working with stakeholders, and testifying before the legislature prior to passage of the bill.		
<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b>   <b>Date Signed (appointed):</b> 1/10/2025		<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> Robert E. Kettle Seattle City Councilmember

\*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

# JOEL C. MERKEL, JR.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### WASHINGTON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, Seattle, WA

*Assistant Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Division*

*September 2022 – Present*

Lead an investigative and litigation team on criminal cases involving complex white-collar Medicaid provider fraud as well as abuse and neglect of persons in residential facilities using a full array of civil and criminal penalties. Manage robust caseload, direct investigations, develop and review warrants and investigative strategies, assess evidence, research and brief evidentiary issues, and resolve cases through litigation or negotiation. Serve on Racial Equity Committee.

### SEATTLE COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION, Seattle, WA

*Commissioner and Co-Chair (volunteer position, 20+ hours per month)*

*April 2022 – Present*

The CPC is one of three civilian-led SPD accountability entities, along with the Office of Police Accountability (OPA), and Office of Inspector General (OIG). As a Co-Chair, I supervise the CPC Executive Director, help set the CPC's policy and community engagement agenda, testify at City Council, chair CPC public meetings, advise on CPC positions under the Consent Decree litigation in federal court, and work with the community, accountability partners, and city government officials on SPD oversight, accountability and policy. The CPC meets publicly twice per month.

### KING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, Seattle, WA

*Deputy Prosecuting Attorney*

*January 2013 – September 2022*

*Trial Rotations: Special Assault, Domestic Violence, Violent and Economic Crimes, District Court*

- Tried 50+ jury trials to verdict. Work with staff and law enforcement on case development, investigative follow up, and trial preparation. Worked collaboratively with victims, victim advocates, witnesses, medical professionals, and community partners on complex and sensitive sexual assault and child abuse cases with a victim centered approach. Worked with expert witnesses and the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab on forensic analysis, including DNA.

*Negotiating and Charging: Homicide and Violent Crime, Special Assault, and Economic Crimes*

- Made charging decisions, including on "rush" cases for in-custody defendants within a 72-hour filing period. Reviewed warrants and collaborate with law enforcement on case investigations. Negotiated with defense counsels on a high volume of cases with competing equities and community interests. Researched and prepared likely evidentiary issues for trial deputies.

*Leadership, policy, and office mission contributions*

- Supervised and trained newer trial deputies. Served on hiring and legislative committees. Spearheaded and led the successful effort to expand a state law on drug treatment sentencing alternatives. Served on an office-wide Equity Action Workgroup to develop internal recommendations on criminal justice reform and racial equity. Developed, wrote, and proposed new charging and disposition standards for certain crimes. Developed and presented CLEs.

**U.S. SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL'S OFFICE**, Washington, D.C. and Seattle, WA

*Legislative Counsel*

*January 2007 - March 2010, and February 2011 - December 2012*

Legislative and Policy Counsel on financial markets, energy, and natural resource policy. Led the Senator's investigations, oversight, and policy responses to the 2008 financial market crisis. Drafted and negotiated sections of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law. Developed policy and political strategies in preparing the Senator for congressional hearings, meetings with the President of the United States, cabinet secretaries, executive branch officials, and constituent groups. Drafted the Senator's comment to the Federal Trade Commission's rulemaking on the Senator's oil market anti-manipulation law.

**SUMMIT POWER GROUP**, Seattle, WA

*Assistant Counsel*

*March 2010 – February 2011*

Assisted the company's president and general counsel on legal, commercial, legislative, and policy matters related to the company's clean energy business, including federal contracts and clean energy tax incentive compliance.

**MERKEL LAW OFFICE**, Seattle, WA

*Rule 9 Attorney and Attorney*

*January 2006 – January 2007*

Drafted appellate and State Supreme Court briefs. Drafted and responded to interrogatories, assisted in depositions, and helped develop litigation strategies. Argued summary judgment motions.

**KITSAP COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**, Port Orchard, WA

*Rule 9 Attorney*

*May 2005 – December 2005*

Tried non-felony and felony jury trials. Argued pre-trial and post-sentencing motions. Handled pre-trial calendars. Conducted legal research and writing for evidentiary motions.

**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR-ELECT CHRISTINE GREGOIRE**, Olympia, WA

*Transition Team Staff*

*December 2004-January 2005*

Collaborated with stakeholders and prepared recommendations to the Governor-Elect on cabinet level and senior staff appointments and other transition related matters.

**KING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**, Seattle, WA

*Paralegal, Most Dangerous Offenders Project (MDOP) and Drug Unit*

*June 2003 – August 2003*

Processed discovery and filed pleadings for trial deputies. Prepared trial notebooks and exhibits. Worked with witnesses and trial deputies on all aspects of trial preparation and case management.



## EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL LICENCES

Member: Washington State Bar Association (2006)

**Tulane University School of Law**, New Orleans, Louisiana

Juris Doctor, *Environmental Law Certificate*, July 2006

Selected Honors: Trial Advocacy *honors*  
First and Second Year Class President  
Criminal Law Defense Clinic *Student Attorney*

**University of Washington School of Law**, Seattle, Washington

Visiting Student (Hurricane Katrina), September 2005 – June 2006

Selected Honors: Environmental Law Clinic *Student Attorney*

**University of Washington**, Seattle, Washington

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science Honors Program, graduated *with distinction*, 2003

## CURRENT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WORK

Seattle Community Police Commission, Commissioner and Co-Chair (2022-present)

WSBA Legal Foundation of Washington, Campaign for Equal Justice: Board Member (2021-present)

King County Bar Association (KCBA) Board of Trustees (2023-present)

KCBA: Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee Member (2021-present)

KCBA: Public Policy Committee, Barriers to Reentry Subcommittee (2021-present)

Washington State Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA) Workgroup: Member (2018-2020)

# Community Police Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 125315, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms however, for initial terms should be as follows:

- 5 City Council-appointed
- 5 Mayor-appointed
- 5 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify): Commission

## Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
6	M		1.	Member	Lars Erickson	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	Mayor
			2.	Member					Mayor
			3.	Member					Mayor
2	F		4.	Member	Arlecier L.N. West	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	M		5.	SPMA Rep	Anthony Gaedcke	1/1/23	12/31/25	1	Mayor
6	M		6.	Member	Joel C. Merkel	1/1/25	12/31/27	2	Council
			7.	Member	Le'Jayah Washington	1/1/22	12/31/24	2	Council
			8.	Member	Tascha Johnson	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	Council
			9.	Member	David Benchlouch	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Council
			10.	Member					Council
2	F		11.	Member	Erica Newman	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	CPC
			12.	Member	Joseph Seia	1/1/23	12/31/25	2	CPC
			13.	Public Defense					CPC
			14.	Civil Liberties					CPC
2	M		15.	SPOG Rep	Mark Mullens	1/1/23	12/31/25	3	CPC

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