

April 12, 2018

Fe Lopez
Executive Director, Community Police Commission
Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Ave
Suite 1640
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Ms. Lopez,

I am writing to apply for a position as a commissioner on the Community Police Commission (CPC). I am a highly skilled and experienced public defender with extensive experience in criminal law and the effects of police practices on my clients, who are all indigent and predominately people of color.

I have dedicated my entire career to public defense. After college I worked as a public defense investigator in Washington, DC conducting fact investigations of felony cases. As an attorney, I have worked as a Fellow at the Criminal Justice Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center, where I represented indigent clients charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses in D.C. Superior Court and as a staff attorney and supervisor in the felony division of The Defender Association, which is now a division of the King County Department of Public Defense. In my practice, I regularly investigate and litigate issues relating to potential police misconduct. As part of these investigations I have interviewed hundreds of police officers and civilian witnesses, and watched hours of in-car, body-camera, and interrogation videos. Another core aspect of my job is to gain the trust of my clients and their families, who often have been mistreated by figures in positions of authority. While I am largely a product of privilege, my clients are not, and success in client-centered public defense requires significant skills in speaking and building rapport with people from diverse backgrounds. In addition to my work as a public defender, I have been a technical advisor to the CPC since late 2016 and have attended several of the commission's meetings.

I believe with my experience, the position of commissioner on the Community Police Commission is one that I could transition into naturally and seamlessly. I affirm my commitment to the work of commission, subject to requirements of my employment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ben Goldsmith