

Community Police Commission Recommendations on Seattle's Crowd Control Weapons Ban

COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2020

Background

- ▶ Why the CPC made these recommendations
 - ▶ The Crowd Control Ordinance requested the Office of Police Accountability (OPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), and Community Police Commission (CPC) each submit recommendations that include:
 - ▶ Suggested policy revisions to Seattle Police Department's (SPD) manual for use of less-lethal weapons for the purpose of crowd dispersal; and
 - ▶ Identification of crowd dispersal authorization process that requires Executive approval and reflects best practices in policing to minimize harm to protestors.

Background

- ▶ Some community experiences with Crowd Control Weapons
 - ▶ Dozens of injuries from SPD less-lethal weapons were reported.
 - ▶ Many protestors were seriously burned or maimed by blast balls.
 - ▶ Munitions hit journalists who were reporting on the protests.
 - ▶ There were reports of infants suffering from the effects of tear gas while sleeping in their homes.

Background

- ▶ Prior CPC recommendations were not implemented
 - ▶ CPC repeatedly raised issues regarding SPD's use of Crowd Control Weapons
- ▶ CPC's Crowd Control Weapons Ban report offers nine recommendations

Recommendation 1:

The CPC supports the City's ban on the use of crowd control weapons during First Amendment protected activity and recommends SPD implement it as soon as possible.

Recommendation 2:

SPD should immediately revise, with input from the CPC, OIG, OPA, and Federal Court, crowd control policies and training to comply with the City's elimination of Crowd Control Weapons. Over the coming months, those policies and trainings, along with all other SPD crowd control policies and tactics, should go through a community-centered review process that incorporates input from CPC, OPA, OIG, and Federal Court.

Recommendation 3:

The City should ensure the Crowd Control Weapons Ban allows the use of some appropriate less lethal options, with strong policies and accountability mechanisms, outside of crowd control.

Recommendation 4:

The CPC recommends the City work with CPC, OPA, OIG, and other community stakeholders to set clear, strong, and high standards for when police and city officials are authorized to declare unlawful assemblies, riots, and establish curfews.

Recommendation 5:

The CPC recommends in the event SPD issues orders to disperse or declare a riot, the authorizing officers should thoroughly document and an agency outside of SPD should subsequently review any and all actions taken and resulting outcomes. Additionally, we recommend to make all documentation publicly available within 24 hours of the incident, effective immediately.

Recommendation 6:

The CPC recommends the City prohibit the sale of banned Crowd Control Weapons to other law enforcement agencies.

Recommendation 7:

The CPC recommends SPD investigate and make public the full inventory of the Department's crowd control weapons to determine next steps of disposal.

Recommendation 8:

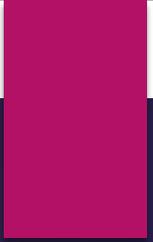
The CPC recommends the City initiate a community-centered review of SPD's use of force policies in collaboration with key community stakeholders, CPC, SPD, and the Federal Court.

Recommendation 9:

The CPC recommends a review of SPD's strategic plans for disparities in the way officers attend, appear, and use force during demonstrations.

Recommendations

1. The CPC supports the City's ban on the use of crowd control weapons during First Amendment protected activity and recommends SPD implement it as soon as possible.
2. SPD should immediately revise, with input from the CPC, OIG, OPA, and Federal Court, crowd control policies and training to comply with the City's elimination of Crowd Control Weapons. Over the coming months, those policies and trainings, along with all other SPD crowd control policies and tactics, should go through a community-centered review process that incorporates input from CPC, OPA, OIG, and Federal Court.
3. The City should ensure the Crowd Control Weapons Ban allows the use of some appropriate less lethal options, with strong policies and accountability mechanisms, outside of crowd control.
4. The CPC recommends the City work with us, OPA, OIG, and other community stakeholders to set clear strong, and high standards for when police and city officials are able to declare unlawful assemblies, riots, and put curfews in place.
5. The CPC recommends in the event SPD issues orders to disperse or declare a riot, the authorizing officers should thoroughly document and an agency outside of SPD should subsequently review any and all actions taken and resulting outcomes. Additionally, we recommend make all documentation publicly available within 24 hours of the incident, effective immediately.
6. The CPC recommends the City prohibit the sale of banned Crowd Control Weapons to other law enforcement agencies.
7. The CPC recommends SPD investigate and make public the full inventory of the Department's Crowd Control Weapons to determine next steps of disposal.
8. The CPC recommends the City initiate a community-centered review of SPD's use of force policies in collaboration with key community stakeholders, CPC, SPD, and the Federal Court.
9. The CPC recommends a review of SPD's strategic plans for disparities in the way officers attend, appear, and use force during demonstrations.



Questions?

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